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Devlin Barrett
charts the
emotional exit of
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THE TIMES



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WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 1999

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WEEKDAY

● Prime Minister states war aim ● Defeat of Milosevic a 'moral imperative'

Blair: No compromises

BY MICHAEL EVANS AND CHARLES BREMNER

TONY BLAIR committed Nato to a moral crusade against President Milosevic yesterday, saying the bombing would continue until the Yugoslav leader had been forced to "step down".

Later it was made clear that the Prime Minister was not announcing a new Nato objective — the overthrow of Mr Milosevic — but saying that the defeat of the Yugoslav leader was a moral imperative.

On a visit to Nato headquarters in Brussels, Mr Blair said there would be no deals or compromises with Mr Milosevic after the "appalling" scenes of violence and brutality in Kosovo.

He said: "To see people herded on to trains and taken away from their homes and to hear the stories that those refugees have come back from Kosovo with — and heaven only knows what — we shall find when we go into Kosovo — to hear those is to either awaken our conscience and make us act or is to say we have no conscience and no will to act in the cause of a longstanding dispute."

Nato revealed that Serb forces had begun to attack Albanians in Montenegro. Jamie Shea, the Nato spokesman, said this was a "new and distressing development".

Serb forces and Albanian troops exchanged fire across the border yesterday in the first clash since the start of the Kosovo crisis. One Albanian soldier was reported injured.

It was also made clear yesterday that the focus of the Nato summit, starting in Washington on Friday, would be to underline the unity behind the air campaign, as well as to seek consensus for tightening the economic sanctions against Yugoslavia. In particular, there will be a demand for new measures to stop illegal oil supplies reaching Belgrade from ports in Montenegro.

The possibility of sending in ground forces into Kosovo is expected to be raised at the summit. Sandy Berger, the US National Security Adviser, said that Nato leaders would discuss it, although the alliance was unlikely to change its policy of airstrikes.

Asked what the alliance would do now after four weeks of bombing had failed "to make Mr Milosevic step down", Mr Blair replied: "It is very simple, we carry on until he does step down."

The Prime Minister's aides swiftly added that he was not saying that Mr Milosevic should leave office but that he must back down and withdraw his forces from Kosovo.

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مكتبة من الأصل

Prisoner
return to
crime in
two years

Billy Bunter's weakness is no joke

PEOPLE who steal down to the kitchen in the night to indulge in Billy Bunter-type feasts are not just greedy: they could be seriously ill.

Albert Stunkard, a professor of psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania and an expert in eating disorders, told a conference in London yesterday that "night-eating syndrome" should be classified alongside anorexia nervosa and bulimia as a serious illness.

Professor Stunkard, who has specialised in treating people with eating disorders for more than 40 years, said that 10 per cent of obese people and 15 per cent of the general population suffered from the night-eating condition. Most, but not all, were obese.

Sufferers wake three or four times during the night and at least half the time cannot resist sneaking downstairs for biscuits or slices of cake. Between the end of dinner and breakfast they consume half their daily intake of calories, 70 per cent in the form of carbohydrates.

On average, the sufferer will eat about 450 more calories than the recommended daily average of 2,000 for a woman and 2,500 for a man. "This is pure comfort food," Professor Stunkard told the Eating Disorders Conference. "They are eating to medicate themselves."

He said the illness is probably more common among men than women. Stress seems to be a trigger but, unlike other eating disorders, children and adolescents do not submit to it. The typical sufferer, he said, gets up after a bad night's

Night eating syndrome should be treated as a serious illness, an expert says. Ian Murray reports

sleep and skips breakfast. Many still do not feel hungry enough to eat lunch, but by dinner time they begin to eat normally.

The meal, however, is little more than an *hors d'oeuvre*. It is only when the plates are cleared away that night-eating syndrome sufferers really start to pile on the calories, trying

to satisfy an almost uncontrollable craving for carbohydrates.

Professor Stunkard said he had carried out tests that showed that the sufferers' melatonin levels dropped at night. Melatonin is a hormone, normally secreted by the pineal gland in the brain during the night, which helps

control body rhythms, including sleep patterns. Lack of it is a cause of insomnia.

There was also a fall in levels of leptin, a hormone produced by fat cells that signal when the body has had enough to eat. A shortage means an individual does not know when to stop eating. At the same time there was an increase in cortisol, the hormone associated with stress and depression. The night eater tries instinctively to counter this by eating carbohydrates which push up production of serotonin, the hormone that controls mood.

Professor Stunkard said that trials were needed to find out whether patients treated with melatonin — not available in Britain — would be cured of their insomnia, thus breaking the cycle of night eating. "I don't think behavioural things like putting a lock on the fridge would work," he said. "Someone with night-eating syndrome would get round that one."

He first published a paper suggesting the condition might exist in 1985, but this had been ridiculed until recently, when modern research into hormones pointed to the reality of its existence. The *Journal of the American Medical Association* is expected to publish his new, up-to-date paper on the subject this summer, finally making the condition recognised as a genuine, separate kind of eating disorder.

"The trouble is that we don't know very much about the condition yet because it has not been properly recognised," he said. "When it is we can expect progress in treating it."



ELVIS'S MIDNIGHT FEAST

The "Fool's Gold" loaf sandwich

3 tablespoons of butter
1 large loaf of white bread
1 lb of bacon
1 large jar of smooth peanut butter
1 large jar of jam
Mashed bananas

Preheat the oven to 350 F. Spread butter generously over all sides of the loaf and place the bread on a baking sheet in the oven for 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, fry the bacon until it is crisp. When the loaf is browned, slice lengthwise and scoop out some of the interior. Fill it with jam, peanut butter and banana, layered with bacon slices. Close the two halves of the loaf.

Recipe makes one serving (Elvis); or 8-10 servings (others). Calories: 42,000 (average recommended daily intake for a man is 2,500)



Billy Bunter was happiest when his stomach was full, day or night. Night eaters probably eat only one meal a day

The lure of the larder looms large after dark

STUFFING and starving has always been one of the hallmarks of bulimic patients and they often supplement the periods of starvation by inducing vomiting and purging. A variant of this behaviour is the night-eating syndrome.

Sufferers barely look at food throughout the day but when they return home and supper is cleared away, they empty the refrigerator, and possibly the deep freeze too. They gorge mostly on sweet carbohydrates: cakes, biscuits and bread.

Although the habit of night eating has been little noticed by doctors, for as long as I can remember, I've been aware that there are patients who do this.

Diana, Princess of Wales, was well known as someone who was apt to raid the larder when the rest of the house was asleep, but a more notorious sufferer from night-eating syndrome was Robert Maxwell.

As a young man, the former chief of Mirror Group Newspapers remained comparatively svelte, but as he grew older he suddenly started to put on huge amounts of weight, despite a modest appetite throughout the day.

The scenes of gluttony that greeted his cleaners when they came to clear up the chairman's kitchen at The Mirror next morning are still described. Apparently two or

MEDICAL BRIEFING

three chickens which he had reduced to bones were left lying around and had served the same role as that of a cup of hot chocolate for an earlier generation in their battle against night starvation.

Elvis Presley was another who deserved his excesses for the night by the early 1970s his weight had ballooned to 20 stone because of spectacular evening binges. He would eat nothing for most of the day, and then enjoy a breakfast fit for a king about 5 or 6pm. This involved butter

milk cakes and the "sweet treats" of fried white bread and jam sandwiches first made for him by his mother. But by the early hours of the morning his cravings became overpowering.

Midnight feasts regularly arrived at Graceland, bearing obliging chefs to cook him fried peanut butter and banana sandwiches or the infamous "Fool's Gold" loaf.

He could eat two of these at a sitting, even after snacks of hamburgers and pizza. Before morning he may have consumed up to 100,000 calories, equivalent to the daily needs of an Asian elephant.

Bulimia is likely to be associated with more generalised psychiatric disturbance than is anorexia nervosa. Whether night-eating syndrome deserves to be classified as a distinct entity is uncertain, but a description of the behavioural pattern and any associated physical changes is useful. It is unlikely that one simple remedy will cure this problem. These patients may well be rather disturbed and need careful assessment.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Robert Maxwell was a notorious night eater

Rigging claim scuppers hearing

By A CORRESPONDENT

A NAVAL trial in Portsmouth was abandoned because the Navy's Chief Prosecutor, Commander Nick Hawkins, allegedly told an officer's wife that he had "rigged" the prosecution evidence against her husband.

Commander Hawkins has now left the Navy, and is currently head of the Crown Prosecution Service in Wiltshire. It is claimed that he made the remarks at his own retirement party, when he allegedly told Tracey Hawkes not to worry about her husband's pending prosecution.

Mrs Hawkes told a hearing that Commander Hawkins had said: "He will be okay, I have rigged the case."

Mrs Hawkes' husband, Lieutenant Jonathan Hawkes, was facing charges, along with another officer, Commander Captain David Humphrey. Judge Advocate Captain David Humphrey said the behaviour of Commander Hawkins was improper and the case against Commander Wheeler had to be dropped.

Woman must pay for lovers' gifts

By SUSIE STEINER

A WEALTHY businessman yesterday won £10,000 from his former lover as payment for every item that he bought her during their three-year relationship.

William Parker, 51, went to court to claim £18,000 from Helen Holdsworth, including £1.75 for a lock for her lavatory door, £25 for a garden trellis and £4 for an oil filter. The items, he said, were a loan to Miss Holdsworth, 38, because she was in financial trouble.

Miss Holdsworth, who has two children, one of whom Mr

Parker has admitted is probably his, said outside the court: "My enduring concern will be for other single mothers and their children and for the doubt which is thrown upon the possibility of constructing human personal relationships founded upon mutual trust."

Mr Parker's original claim included £1,300 for a mortgage repayment, as well as sums for car repairs and renovations to her home.

Judge Bishop, agreeing the settlement at Kingston County Court, was told that Ms Holdsworth would have to take out a loan to pay the £10,000. However Mr Parker agreed to transfer a Volkswagen Golf that he had bought from Miss Holdsworth, back into her name. The bulk of her costs have been covered by legal aid.

Outside the court Mr Parker said that he had never been in love with Ms Holdsworth.

"I was in there for a bit of sex but I was also there to help someone in need," he said. "She agreed we would put it on a tab and she would pay me a lump sum rather than scrabbling about for £12.50. I don't see a moral issue here."

Miss Holdsworth was charged £1.75 for a lock

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BALKANS WAR: THE DISSENTERS

Party shocked by MP's secret trip

Leftwinger's unofficial journey to Belgrade is likely to result in a reprimand, writes Andrew Pierce

THE left-wing Labour MP Alice Mahon will be carpeted by party bosses for a secret trip to Belgrade without seeking permission.

Party leaders were astonished when the MP for Halifax disclosed details of her journey during a Commons speech in which she criticised her Government's support for Nato.

Even more perplexing for the Labour leadership was the disclosure that *The Mirror*, the traditionally Labour-supporting newspaper which has championed the military action, organised and partly financed the £850 excursion.

"I am not going to give figures. But *The Mirror* paid some and I paid some. It cost me £100 to £200," said Mrs Mahon. "I never accepted any hospitality from the Serbian Government. All I took was two cups of black coffee."

Challenged about why she had not sought party permis-



Mahon: "I only want to help the refugees"

sion, Mrs Mahon was emphatic: "The whips would have tried to stop me. They would at least have applied heavy pressure."

While Downing Street de-

fended the right of MPs to

launch solo peace initiatives,

Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, likened critics of the war effort to those who opposed Hitler.

"There were people who op-

posed action being taken

against Hitler and I am

ashamed that there are some

members of the Labour Party

who are saying things defend-

ing what the Serbs are doing,"

she said on BBC Radio 4's

Woman's Hour. They are enti-

tled to say it and I am entitled

to think it."

An unrepentant Mrs Mahon was last night already dis-

cussing plans for a second trip

to Yugoslavia at a meeting at

Westminster of the Committee

for Peace in the Balkans, which

she chairs. "I came back even

bombs started dropping. The Foreign Office was anxious about security implications and the potential publicity premium for the propaganda-hungry Serbian authorities. One Whitehall source said: "We have to beware the risk of MPs unwittingly becoming the toast of Belgrade."

While the MP was coy about the costs, *The Mirror* confirmed that it paid Mrs Mahon's £854 air fare and £55 towards her hotel bill.

Piers Morgan, the Editor, said he was aware that Mrs Mahon was a bitter opponent of Tony Blair's policy. "When we were offered a visa into Yugoslavia it was too good an opportunity to miss," he said.

The MP and the journalist were taken by Serb government officials to sites damaged by bombs.

Mrs Mahon said yesterday:

"I was not a help for Milosevic. I refused to meet him or any ministers. I only want to help the refugees to go home. I would walk a million miles if I thought it would help."

Mired in mud, page 7
Simon Jenkins, page 22
Letters, page 23



Tony Blair on a visit yesterday to Tornado crews who are flying sorties over Yugoslavia from Brüggen, Germany

Labour divided by passions of war

Party's wounds may not heal soon, Roland Watson writes

THE war in Kosovo has produced a split on the Labour Left that will take a long time to heal. Clare Short's denunciation of the 11 Labour MPs who voted against the Government in Monday's debate on the crisis as an "absolute disgrace to the party" illustrates not just the division but the strength of feeling behind it.

In calmer times many of the eleven would be considered political soulmates of the International Development Secretary. But the passion of their opposition to Nato's actions in Yugoslavia runs as fiercely as that of fellow leftwingers convinced that this is a just war.

Even the closest of friends find themselves on the opposite sides of the fence. Alice Mahon, a vigorous critic, has her office next to her close Westminster colleague Ann Clwyd, a passionate advocate.

The divisions are partly generational. Many of those opposed to the conflict learnt their politics in the postwar era amid hopes that the authority of a fledgling United Nations could help preside over a new world order. Tony Benn, the former Cabinet minister and MP for Chesterfield, and Tam Dalyell, MP for Livingston, fall broadly into that category.

There is also a fiercely anti-American streak running through the opposition to the war, represented by George Galloway, MP for Glasgow Kelvin and Jeremy Corbyn, MP for Islington North.

Other members of the 25-strong hard left Campaign group arguing against Nato action — including Mrs Mahon, MP for Halifax; Alan Simpson, MP for Nottingham South; Llew Smith, MP for Blaenau Gwent; Audrey Wise, MP for Preston; and Neil Gerrard, MP for Walthamstow — are driven by a mixture of instinctive dislike

of military action, concern about the legality of Nato's operation and fears for the civilian population of Belgrade.

Of the others who voted against the Government on Monday night, Bob Wareing (Liverpool West Derby), is a long-standing friend of Serbia. Bob Marshall-Andrews (Medway) is a maverick rather than a leftwinger.

Those members of the Campaign group who support the bombing tend to be younger. Many have come to politics from a background of social libertarianism rather than class conflict. They have also developed their beliefs during a time when belief in the supremacy of the nation-state

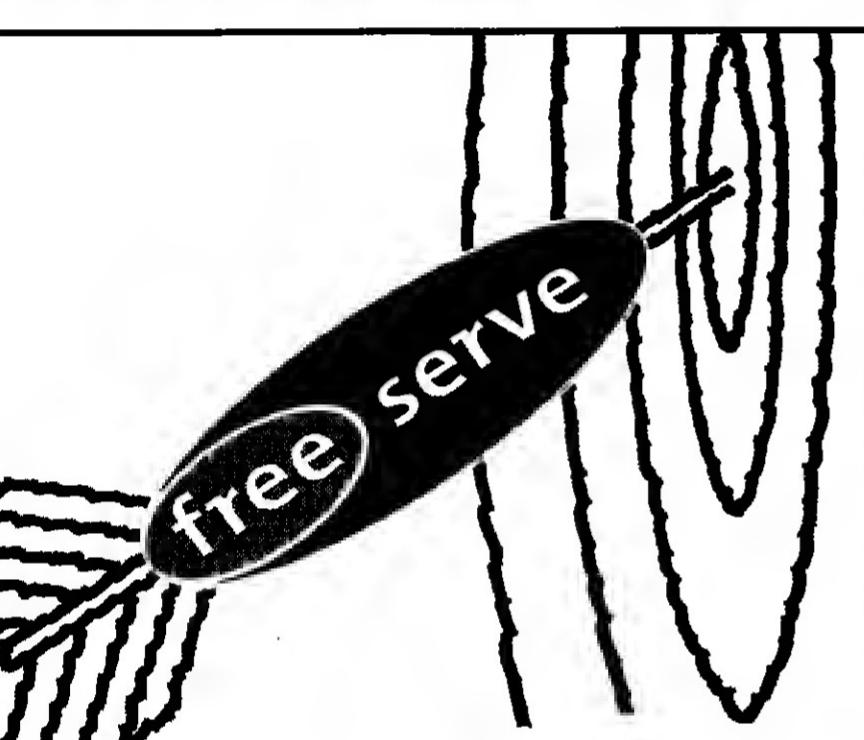
Livingstone and Harry Cohen, both Campaign members. Television pictures and newspaper reports of refugees that may evoke images of the Nazi Holocaust are also a critical factor among some MPs.

It is noted by some observers that those MPs with a high Muslim population in

their constituencies tend to support the war strongly. But Denis MacShane said the Muslims in his Rotherham constituency had put him under little or no pressure.

Among the humanitarian arguments for intervention are concerns at the rape of ethnic Albanian women. Tess Kingham (Gloucester), a former international aid worker, told the Commons: "We strongly believe we had a moral imperative to intervene."

One MP claims the conflict amounts to "the first socialist war". He says: "This is a Christian alliance going to war with a Christian country in defence of Muslims and to help defeat totalitarianism and genocide. These are the kind of values that brought many of us into the movement."



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RAF saw civilians only after bombing

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN GIOIA DEL COLL

THE RAF confirmed yesterday that British Harriers had spotted civilian vehicles in the Kosovo convoy bombed by Nato planes last Wednesday, but said this was only after the bombing and, therefore, had no bearing on the decision by US pilots to call off the attack.

Reports this week said the Harriers, carrying out daily bombing sorties over Kosovo, had warned the lead F16 pilot that the convoy included civilians but had been ignored.

"This is not true," a spokesman said. "The Harriers arrived ... after the attack had been suspended. They also looked at the convoy and reported that it appeared to have possible civilian vehicles amongst it. In that sense they might have contributed to reinforcing a decision to suspend the attack pending the arrival of the AIOs".

US AIO pilots using binoculars confirmed there had been civilian casualties, Nato said.

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BALKANS WAR: EUROPE'S FAULT LINES

Nervous start for Nato new boys

Central European recruits may soon regret they signed up, writes Roger Boyes

THE thump of Nato bombs battering Subotica, six miles from the Hungarian border, has brought home the price of alliance membership for the new entrants — Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

As the Kosovo war rages on, the new boys are looking nervous. Participating in the Nato club was sold to their electorates as a relatively painless route to modernisation, as an affirmation of Western values and as a way of securing societies against an unstable, unpredictable Russia.

Instead, only weeks after signing up, Hungary finds itself on the front line, the Poles see an already hostile Belarus drawing closer to both Russia and Serbia, and the Czechs are worried that investor sentiment will turn against Central Europe and endanger the far more attractive goal of European Union membership.

Nato's 50th birthday celebrations this week were supposed to put the new members in the spotlight and present a fresh strategic vision for the post-Cold War era. Now the new partners are wondering what they have got themselves into and Nato is wondering whether its "open-door policy" towards Eastern candidates really amounts to a strategy at all.

Most worried of all are two countries on Nato's waiting list, Bulgaria and Romania. Ivan Kostov, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, heads for Brussels today to ask for "additional security guarantees"



Feeling the strain: Albanian children go home from school carrying a box of food sent by aid organisations to help families who have taken in refugees from Kosovo

from Nato. Bulgaria has opened its airspace for Nato strikes on Serbia and is coming under heavy criticism from the Socialist opposition; the popular mood is turning against the war and against the Government. Every day the country is losing nearly £1 million.

Romania, too, is suffering, above all from the blocking of the Danube; every week of the war it is losing £6.2 million in export earnings. If this is the price of Nato eventually accepting Romania, it is a high one, paid well in advance. Romania is trying very hard to make the grade. Its soldiers now double-march to a US Marine chant which has been adapted to say: "Green leaves on a noble trunk, I am a gendarme,

a proud man. We are the gendarmerie. Protecting democracy." This may not qualify for any big musical awards but it does underline the effort being put behind every aspect of Eastern Europe's military adaptation to the alliance.

The sums add up for the new boys only if Nato membership brings a swift improvement in their security. For Hungary that seems far from certain. There are 300,000 ethnic Hungarians in the Vojvodina region of north Yugoslavia; they are terrified that Budapest might beat the Nato drum too loudly and turn Serb wrath against them once the Kosovo killing has stopped.

Novi Sad, populated by Serbs and Hungarians, has come under almost daily bombardment and any association

with Nato draws contempt. There are irredentists in Hungary who would want autonomy for Vojvodina should Kosovo gain independence. The Hungarian border zone, in other words, is likely to stay unstable for a long time. Budapest's contribution to the Nato campaign is correspondingly low.

The Czechs have reacted churlishly to the air attacks

while President Havel supports the war, Milos Zeman, the Prime Minister, and Vaclav Klaus, the House Speaker, have expressed doubts and criticised Nato sympathisers as "warmongers". Czechs were the least enthusiastic of the Central Europeans about Nato membership, partly because of the lukewarm attitude

of their leaders, and are unhappy about the present war.

There were always two potential crises facing an enlarged Nato: a spreading Balkan war, and a post-Yeltsin succession crisis thrusting Russian nationalists into uncomfortable prominence. The new members were not sufficiently prepared for their alliance role in these crises and they are increasingly uneasy.

A Kosovo war that ends up redrawing frontiers will profoundly destabilise the region. There are ethnic Bulgarians in eastern Serbia, and Serbs and Hungarians in Romania.

"The place is a proverbial powder keg and it could just blow up under Nato's southern flank," says a German military analyst in Bonn. "If, for example, Kosovo is partitioned, the Kosovo Albanian part will not be viable and will have to integrate economically with Albania proper. That, in turn, will put unbearable pressure on Macedonia. Greece — a Nato member — cannot be untouched by that."

Nato's open-door policy towards Eastern Europe, to be celebrated in Washington this week, has never looked more untenable.

□ Budapest: President Göncz of Hungary will not be taking part in the Nato summit in Washington, his spokesman said, citing reasons of protocol. The delegation will be headed by the country's Prime Minister. (AFP)

Britain set for refugee intake

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE first refugees from the war in Kosovo are expected to arrive in Britain on Friday, the Government announced last night.

A group of 120 refugees, mainly women and children, will be flown from Macedonia under the United Nations' humanitarian evacuation plans. They include single parents under difficulties in the camps and others who cannot care for themselves.

Another 18 refugees in need of medical treatment, and their 12 dependents, are also to be flown to the UK.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said: "We have made clear that we stand by to respond positively to requests from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to take displaced persons from Kosovo on a temporary basis."

The refugees will arrive at Stansted airport and regional airports before being placed in reception centres run by the Refugee Council. They will then be moved into permanent accommodation.

Those arriving this week will be given permission to stay in the UK because they have close family members here or will get 12 months' exceptional leave to enter.

BALKANS SUMMARY

Old scores put young state at risk of inferno

Yugoslav towns emptied

Génova: Up to a million people have left their homes in Yugoslavia to move to safer, rural areas as Nato airstrikes continue, the International Red Cross said. Towns in the southeast of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have become homes for people who have left their own communities, and Red Cross workers believe up to 50,000 displaced people could arrive in Vranje if the situation continues to deteriorate. (AP)

One killed at offices

Belgrade: One person was killed and two hurt in a Nato airstrike on Prishtina as at least 20 explosions were heard in the Kosovo capital yesterday, the state news agency Tanjug reported. The dead and injured were at an administration building in the Pristina suburb of Grmija which was hit by a missile. Slatina airport and a coalmine were also targeted. (AFP)

Airport inspected

Prague: A group of US Air Force specialists inspected an international civilian airport at Moscow, northern Moravia, which may be used to station Nato KC135 refuelling planes to help with airstrikes against Yugoslavia. The Czech Government has asked parliament to allow the use of its airports and both chambers are due to discuss the issue today. (AP)

US holds soldier

Massachusetts: The US has taken custody of a Yugoslav army officer captured by the KLA, the White House said. He was captured last Wednesday near Junik and delivered to the Albanian Government before being turned over to the US military. He is in good condition and will receive visits from the Red Cross and religious counsellors. (AP)

Tension in south Balkans could continue into next century, writes Michael Binyon

Skopje: Greek sources say that Athens will sign a treaty when the political atmosphere is calmer.

With a population of only two million, today's Macedonia was largely an invention of the late President Tito, separated from southern Serbia to weaken Serb dominance in a federal Yugoslavia. Under the communists, the Albanian minority of 25 per cent was badly treated. Since independence, they have had more rights and freedoms.

But underlying tensions remain. The Orthodox Macedonians, whose language is virtually indistinguishable from Bulgarian, and a small number of Serbs hate and despise the Muslim Albanians. They see them as a fifth column, scheming to create a greater Albania. The Albanians, in turn, see Macedonia as part of a Slav-Orthodox plot to crush their identity. There is strong support for the Kosovo Liberation Army, and tonnes of weapons were smuggled into Albanian hands in western Macedonia after weapons stores were looted during the 1996 Albanian civil war.

Unlike 1912 or 1913, when the neighbouring countries fought each other for control of this remnant of the Ottoman empire, the surrounding governments know the cost of provoking trouble. Greeks and Bulgarians have both historically coveted the territory.

But today Athens and Sofia are committed to keeping existing Balkans borders.

They have offered moral and material support to the Government of Ljupco Georgievski, dominated by moderate nationalists. But Serbia has a different agenda; and Albania, riven by instability, has little to lose by intervention.

The real danger is not outside meddling but internal collapse. If the majority fears a permanent increase in the Albanian population, it would look to Serbia for protection. It might also turn on the Albanians, with massacres that could draw in neighbours in an attempt to protect their ethnic kinsmen. A civil war would be even bloodier than the one in Bosnia. The region cannot afford a third Balkans war.

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The flat was too small to swing a cat. So it was kicked, punched and burned inside.



When the vet inspected Raquel, he noted a fractured leg, broken ribs, blood swelling to the head and a ruptured abdomen.

The kind of injuries consistent with a road accident. Except this cat had never left her owner's flat.

You see, it wasn't a speeding vehicle that had struck her. It was a boot.

The rest of her injuries revealed a sad catalogue of suffering.

Severe burns. Scald lesions. Broken and fractured bones. Ruptures. Haematoma. Chronic arthritis caused by a fractured hock.

The owner assumed that Raquel, used to living in large houses, had incurred these injuries running round her cramped flat.

The owner's boyfriend, who was found guilty of the horrific attacks, was then sentenced to three months in an extremely cramped place of his own.

Last year, our inspectors investigated over 124,000 cruelty complaints. Thankfully, this one had a happy ending.

Under the RSPCA's care, Raquel made a good recovery and is now re-homed in a loving environment. She remains scared of men but is making steady progress.

RSPCA week runs until 25th April. Please join, support us or make a donation by calling 01403 223 284 during office hours.

Despite our best efforts, cruelty to cats is creeping up every year. But with your help, we are determined to reverse this trend.



prophets
visions
comfort
Belgrade

A Series
of what I call
"Mistaken
Walker" write

story boss scoff
"anti-rich" raid

News at Six to cover regions in 12 seconds

The BBC's *Six O'Clock News* is to include regional headlines for the first time in its history to counter claims that it is London-biased and to quell anger over its refusal to grant Scotland its own separate news.

When the programme is relaunched next month the opening headlines will carry 12 seconds of news from Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the English regions. The headlines will be updated halfway through the programme and there will be regional weather and sports reports.

Huw Edwards, a Welshman, has been picked to anchor the new *Six O'Clock News*, beating candidates such as Anna Ford, Martyn Lewis and Jill Dando, in a move which some interpret as a response to devolution.

But the new format is unlikely to appease those who argued for a "devolved" *Six O'Clock News*. One BBC Scotland source said: "This is almost worse than nothing. Do those making the decisions in London not realise that a few seconds of headlines is a little bit patronising?"

A spokesman for the Scottish National Party added: "This is tokenistic and minimalist. It sounds like a pretty messy package which will end up pleasing nobody. The big mistake the BBC made was in

'Devolution' at the BBC is attacked as patronising, writes Carol Midgley

denying the Scottish people their own *Six O'Clock News*. It is no good now just cobbling something together."

Professor Lindsay Paterson, a member of the Broadcasting Council for Scotland, resigned in disgust at the decision by the BBC governors not to allow a "Scottish Six". Eleven presenters, including Kenny McIntyre, BBC Scotland's political editor, and Ruth Wishart, a presenter of *Woman's Hour*, have accused the BBC of failing to keep pace with political change.

All viewers will see Mr Edwards introduce the main headlines. The focus will then switch to regional newsrooms for 12 seconds of local news, before returning to London. Another update from the regions, lasting a few seconds, will follow at 6.5pm.

Mark Popescu, Editor of the *Six O'Clock News*, said yesterday:

day that the revamped programme would give more status to stories from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. He said he did not think it was his place to say whether there should be a "Scottish Six".

But he added: "I'm not surprised that people feel we have a metropolitan bias. The other night there were 16 stories on the *Six O'Clock News* and 12 of them were brought together in London. I think that is unacceptable."

"We want to relate to people's lives better. We are going to be more in touch and less institutional. We are building a new relationship with our regional outlets."

The BBC will also attempt to win back some of the ground it has lost in the coverage of sport recently by including a new Friday sports section within the bulletin, presented by Helen Rollason.

Ms Rollason, who is fighting cancer, is to preview the weekend sport in a five-minute package.

A new set is being built for the *Six O'Clock News* which, Mr Popescu said, would dispense with its traditional blue, which research has shown is regarded by the public as cold and distant. A new theme tune is being written by David Lowe for the relaunch on May 10.

The BBC last night claimed that it was frozen out of the bidding for radio rights to the England cricket team's tour of South Africa and Zimbabwe this winter.

In a blow to BBC Sport, Radio 4's *Test Match Special* was trumped by the commercial station Talk Radio for the five-Test series. It will be the first time that ball-by-ball commentary has been carried by a commercial station.

The BBC, which has been accused of "throwing in the towel" on television sports coverage, said that it had not been allowed to enter the competition. Inside

ers said that the Talk Radio offer was so high that the South African Cricket Board did not consider any others.

"There was no open bidding process," a BBC spokesman said. "We were trying for months but the South African Cricket Board did not respond to our calls. It's very disappointing, but we are not seeing it as the end of the world."

Peter Baxter, the producer of *Test Match Special*, said: "Our negotiator was trying for months to secure these rights but was rather fobbed off. But we still have two years of our contract with the English Cricket Board, the World Cup and four Tests after that."

Last year Channel 4 outbid the BBC

for rights to English Test Cricket for four years.

Kevin MacKenzie, the head of Talk Radio, which is part-owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, said: "I personally approached the rights agent who did the deal. It was straightforward. I thought I was competing against the BBC. The fact that they didn't turn up for the fight is a problem they should be dealing with internally."

Talk Radio's commentary team for the five Tests and the one-day triangular tournament against South Africa and Zimbabwe will comprise the former England cricketers Geoffrey Boycott, John Emburey and Phil Tufnell.

Rivals oppose fee for digital TV

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

COMMERCIAL broadcasters have combined to attack a proposal for an extra licence fee for digital television.

A charge of up to £35 a year, on top of the existing £101, is one of four options suggested by the BBC to a panel that is considering ways to increase the corporation's revenue.

The BBC Funding Review Panel, chaired by Gaynor Davies, a multimillionaire City economist, is believed to be sympathetic to the idea of a separate licence for receiving digital television.

In a letter to *The Times* today, commercial broadcasters say they are "strongly opposed" to the idea. The signatures from companies including Granada and Carlton, argue that everyone from the Government to the electronics industry has worked to give the UK a world lead in developing digital television.

The introduction of a higher digital licence fee would threaten the enormous progress made so far," they say. "We therefore urge both the BBC Funding Review Panel and the Government to reject this idea, which would hinder the development of digital television and operate against the UK's wider industrial interests."

The three other ways of increasing revenue suggested by the BBC are raising the licence fee by more than the increase in the retail price index; linking the licence fee to gross domestic product; and requiring a licence for every set, rather than for each household.

The BBC said it was "neutral" on which proposal was chosen, but noted that a digital licence fee would bring "buoyancy" to licence fee revenue for a generation. The more people who subscribe to digital television, the more money the BBC would receive.

Letters, page 23

Bell tries to keep Dyke out of BBC job

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE MP and former BBC journalist Martin Bell yesterday led an attempt at Westminster to stop the millionaire Labour Party donor Greg Dyke from becoming the next Director-General of the corporation.

Mr Bell, the Independent member for Tatton, was at the top of a cross-party list of MPs that tabled an early day motion criticising Mr Dyke's candidacy. The former BBC governor Shafiq Sadeque also publicly disputed whether Mr Dyke had the credentials to run a public service broadcaster.

Mr Dyke, the chairman of Pearson Television, was encouraged to let his name go forward for the post by Downing Street. Sir Christopher Bland, the BBC chairman, and Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, have donated £50,000 to the Labour Party since 1994 after helping to fund Tony Blair's campaign for the party leadership that year.

The early day motion praised the contribution that Mr Dyke, a key figure at London Weekend Television in the 1980s, has made to the broadcasting industry, but said "his substantial financial donations to the Labour Party render him inappropriate to be the next Director-General."

Peter Ainsworth, the Shadow Culture Secretary, called on Mr Dyke to withdraw from the race. "It will remove the governors from the invidious position of having to assess a candidate who has been pushed for the job by the Prime Minister," he said.

Mr Sadeque, a BBC governor from 1990 until 1995, said: "The Director-General has the most important job to ensure there is no political interference... It is difficult to see how Greg Dyke can demonstrate the impartiality which is necessary."



Bell: leading a campaign by MPs

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at Seou



Peter Baxter, producer of *Test Match Special*, said that the South African Cricket Board had "fobbed off" the BBC

Radio 4 loses winter cricket tour

BY CAROL MIDGLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

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Bell tries
to keep
Dyke
out of
BBC job

Ginseng revives flagging Prince at Seoul feast

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN SEOUL

THE Queen was introduced yesterday to ginseng, a prized potion said to reduce blood pressure and improve stamina.

She was served it for dinner, but at the end of a long day it was the Duke of Edinburgh who looked most in need of its restorative powers.

Ginseng, served with cucumber and mustard sauce, was the first item on the menu at last night's state banquet here. The Queen remained alert and active after a day of greeting huge and admiring crowds, but the drowsy Duke nodded precariously close to the dinner table while his wife

was making her keynote speech. He seemed to revive somewhat once he had consumed his magical starter.

On the second day of her state visit, the Queen found herself the object of adulation by virtually the entire student body of the world's largest all-female university. It was in the sharpest contrast to a visit she made several years ago to the campus at Aberystwyth, when hostile Welsh-speaking students forced her, for one of the few times in her reign, to cut short an engagement.

They are not so curmudgeonly in South Korea, where the visit has been accorded such high importance by the Government, that even last week's dress rehearsal took precedence over the television news over a state visit by President Mubarak of Egypt. After the formalities of the first day, yesterday was for the crowds.

In case it was all too much, the Queen's tour of Ewha Women's University included a laboratory where scientists were distilling ginseng to try to discover the secret of its restorative properties. The Queen showed interest, but did not sample it. They gave her a box to take away.

Over a carefully screened cup of tea, the Queen met some of the university's notable graduates including Im Eun Jon, 33, who is the world's first internationally qualified woman football referee, and Byun Young Joo, a film director. "We have just been seeing all the films about you on television, including your life story," Miss Byun said eagerly. "I'm afraid that's rather a



The Duke of Edinburgh is caught on camera dangerously close to a camera during the Queen's speech at last night's banquet. Photograph page 28

long story," the Queen, 73 today, replied.

Even greater crowds, primed by a torrent of advanced media publicity, packed the narrow canyon of Insa-Dong, a traditional Seoul shopping street, as the Queen went walkabout. Police struggled to clear a path and curious faces peered from every upstairs window.

At a calligraphy shop she was presented with a scroll and two traditional seals with owl motifs. Across the street she visited a ceramics shop, signed her name on a white china plate with a calligraphy brush and came away with a gift of a handsome white tea pot. Then to a dress shop selling traditional outfitts. There they gave her a turquoise shawl which she put on but declined an invitation to look at herself in the mirror. "No,

know that I look very nice," she said rather charmingly. The shawl was added to the day's booty.

Outside she met Kim Baek-Soo, a member of a local cultural preservation society attired in the extremely elaborate dress, complete with massive black wig, of a Korean queen of the Yi dynasty. By

contrast, the Head of the Commonwealth looked like an ordinary lady on a shopping trip.

Gifts are not all one way, however. Yesterday the Queen made her host President Kim Dae Jung an honorary Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath, and gave him a pair of silver-framed photographs and a 19th-century print of

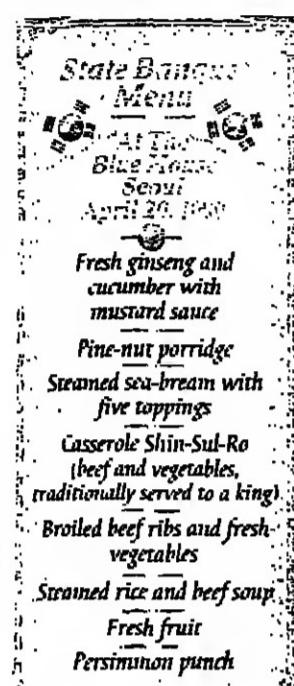
Cambridge, where the President spent some time.

The state visit is largely about trade but there is much recognition of Britain's part in the Korean War, which has left the peninsula divided for nearly half a century. At the state banquet given by President Kim last night the Queen referred to current events near

er home. "At a time when hostilities are again very much on our minds in Europe, we in Britain recall that some 57,000 British servicemen and women, along with military contingents from other Commonwealth countries, fought in those three years of the Korean War, many as part of the Commonwealth Division. We

must never forget that 1,078 made the ultimate sacrifice."

□ Porn warning: The Duke of Edinburgh, saying that clever crooks and peddlers of pornography were exploiting the Internet, urged South Korea's business leaders to ensure that highly trained technology managers were also grounded in ethics and morality. (PA)



'Man-root' prized by Mongol rulers

BY HELEN RUMBLE

GINSENG has a royal pedigree as great as the Queen's, since Mongol emperors ate the "king of herbs" in search of long life and an heir up to 4,000 years ago.

Then as now it is a symbol of Korea, but it has been much coveted by the Chinese for the effects of its Yang energy, some of which have now been proved scientifically.

Its name is derived from the Chinese for "man-root" because its 16in fleshy white tendrils often assume a human shape.

The older and bigger the root becomes the more human it looks. Although most

are harvested after six years, in 1994 a farmer pulled up a 5in root claiming it was 600 years old. He was paid £140,000 for it in Beijing.

More than 12,000 tonnes of ginseng is produced annually, most from the damp woodlands of Korea.

Its power is the stuff of myth, with the best quality given to the Koryo kings in Korea as well as Chinese dynasties who prized it as an aphrodisiac and food for warriors.

Chinese herbalists use the root in tea as a tonic for the elderly. It affects the adrenal gland which produces stress-related hormones.

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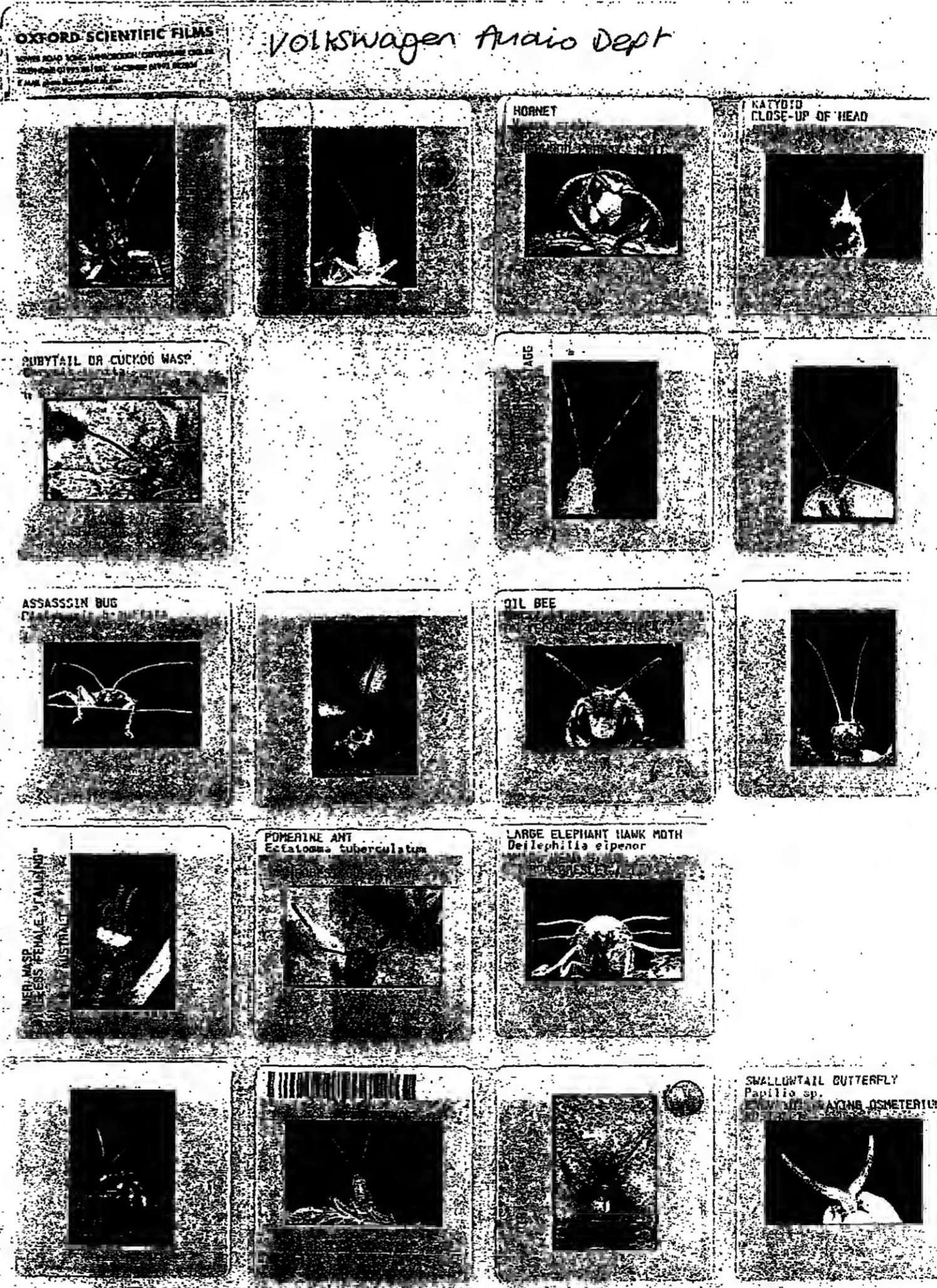
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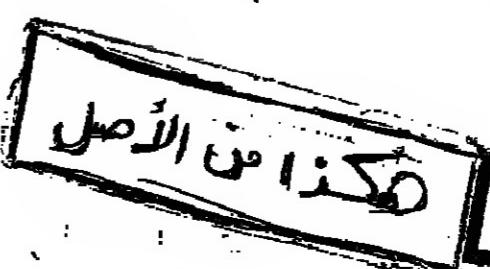
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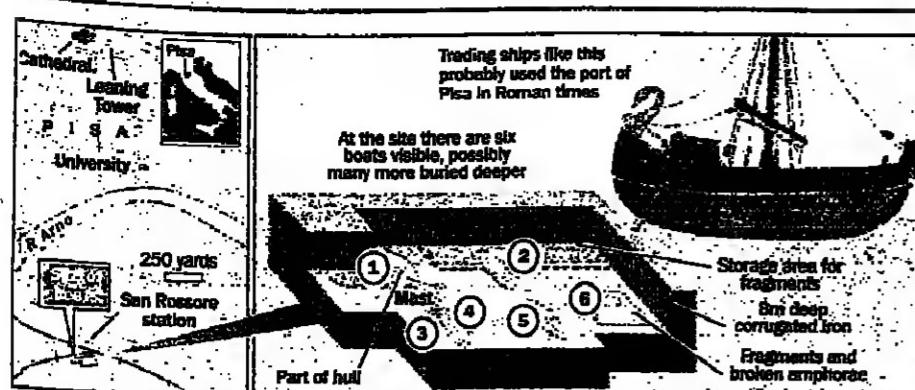
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Roman ships dug from lost Pisa harbour

Scholars are celebrating a rare insight into maritime life 2,000 years ago, reports Richard Owen in Rome

BRITISH and Italian classical scholars yesterday hailed the discovery of eight almost perfectly preserved Ancient Roman ships buried in the mud of what was once the harbour at Pisa as "an astonishing step back into the past" and a "rare insight into Rome as a maritime and trading power".

One wooden ship, with an elongated prow, is thought to have had a military purpose. "I confirmed this will make it the first Roman warship ever found," said Stefano Bruni, the Tuscan archaeologist in charge of the dig.

Professor Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, director of the British School at Rome, said that the ships were "extremely impressive, outstandingly well preserved, and in pristine condition... I could hardly believe the wood before my eyes was not modern-day wood in a modern boat. It is as fresh as the day the ships sank. This is very exciting find."

He said he believed that "perhaps fifth of the boats have been uncovered... there is even more to come".

Giovanna Melandri, the Minister of Culture, said the find was "of exceptional importance".

The archaeologists have uncovered a marvel, both because of the state of preservation of the ships and the numbers involved... the ancient port of Pisa has come to life before our eyes."

"The Roman fleet emerges from the mud of Pisa after two thousand years," said the head-

way station is being held up, but railway officials said that

'Some may have founded others sunk in storms, and others went to the bottom in a flood'

rare" to find Roman ships in such numbers. They range in length from eight yards to thirty yards.

The ships, which are believed to date from the third century BC to the fifth century AD, had all been anchored in a port at the confluence of the River Arno and the River Ausa near the coast. The area has since silted up, and is several miles from the present coast.

The ships were discovered within an area one hundred

and fifty yards square by workmen constructing a control centre at Pisa for the renovated high-speed railway line between Genoa and Rome. They were shown to the press yesterday at Pisa's San Rossore station, half a mile from the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

Reconstruction of the rail-

way station is being held up,

but railway officials said that

they were under pressure to resume work despite the prospect of more historic finds. San Rossore will not only control high-speed traffic but serve tourists visiting Pisa during the millennium.

The Romans controlled the Mediterranean as if it was a lake," Professor Wallace-Hadrill said. "They called it Mare Nostrum — Our Sea — and these ships show the range of goods that was being traded in a culturally diverse

area." He said that there were no giant grain ships of the kind that plied between Egypt and Rome among those uncovered. "I think what we are looking at here is a lagoon harbour which was probably linked to the coast by a canal. Big ships moored off the coast, and these smaller vessels unloaded goods and came up to Pisa."

"They probably also plied up and down the coast. One of them has a distinctive type of sand in it which I am told comes from the Bay of Naples, suggesting that it put in at Naples to take on ballast, before chugging on up here."

Some of the boats used oars while others were under sail. A mast has been found in one of them. "These are not just odd remains but whole vessels, with hulls, planks, wooden pins, nails, even baskets and jars."

Professor Bruni said that the excavations were continuing. "The fleet was obviously much bigger than the eight ships found so far," he said. "We knew the site might have artefacts of archaeological value, but nothing like this."

Wood spotted six yards down in the dark grey silt turned out to be the hull of a ship. The archaeologists even found the remains of rope used to tie the boats up in the harbour.

Professor Wallace-Hadrill said the ships were in an exceptional state of preservation because they had been encased in damp mud. To ensure they are not damaged by exposure to the air, specialists have covered the wooden remains in a layer of varnish and protected them with fibre glass. The boats will later be soaked in distilled water.

Professor Bruni said the archaeologists had also found hundreds of amphorae that once contained fruit such as cherries and plums, and chestnuts and walnuts, as well as



One of the archaeologists recording details of the ships, described as outstandingly well-preserved. Photograph: Chris Warde-Jones



A wild boar's jaw bone with tusks and an amphora were uncovered, providing evidence of the ships' cargoes

olives, wine and oil. The jaw bone of a wild boar suggested the boats carried live animals.

"For me this is one of the most important aspects of the discovery," Professor Wallace-Hadrill said. "We have tens of thousands of amphorae from Pompeii and other sites, but know little about what they really contained. This gives you the feel of the range of goods ferried around the Mediterranean." The dates of the amphorae provide clues to the dates of the ships, which will be confirmed by carbon dating of the wood.

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Professor Wallace-Hadrill said Roman ships had been found before around the Mediterranean, "but almost always

in ones or twos, such as finds at Fiumicino, during the construction of Rome's airport on the coast; and at Marsala. This is something quite extraordinary!"

□ A Roman rubbish dump packed with treasures, including a dinner-set and a leather sandal, has been unearthed in a private garden on the edge of a Falkirk housing estate. The garden adorns Mumills Farm at Lauriston, the protected site of one of the largest

of 17 forts found on the Antonine Wall.

Leading article, page 23



Elena Rossi, a leading archaeologist on the Pisa site, cleaning one of the hulls. Right, Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, director of the British School at Rome

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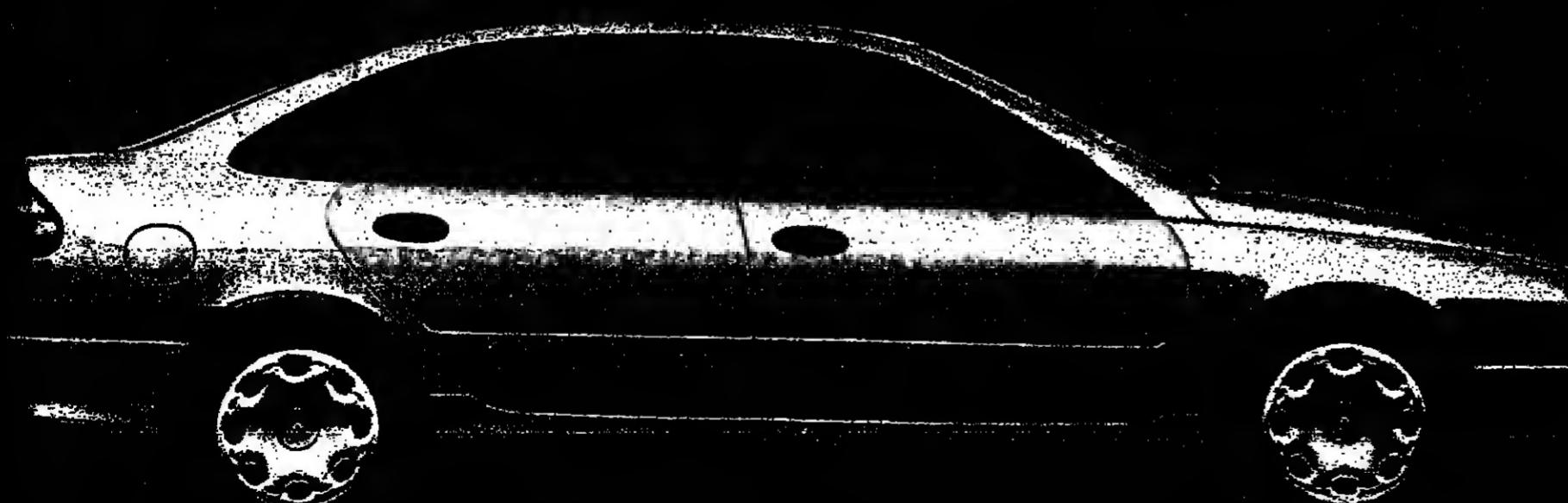


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Welcome to the collapse of the Conservative Party

Tories are not only politically irrelevant but are also in danger of appearing ridiculous. After attempting to remake the party's image and William Hague's style in the manner of a failing middle-market paper, the leadership is now in a muddle over policy. The confusion cannot just be dismissed as a linguistic and "spinning" fust. It reflects distinct and inherently contradictory strategies.

On the one hand, William Hague has said the Tories would "re-establish the economic and

moral case for low taxation" and praised an "excellent" Centre for Policy Studies pamphlet by Maurice Saatchi and Peter Warburton calling for an overhaul of the tax and benefit system to slash the tax burden. On the other hand, Peter Lilley has highlighted the limits to the role of the free market and defended taxpayer funding of public partnerships.

Mr Lilley sought to answer criticisms that the Tories do not care about welfare services and are interested only in privatisation. The public overwhelmingly supports

Peter RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

helped to reduce the relative size of the public sector from a peak of 47 per cent to 41 per cent by the time the Tories lost power in 1997. But that was only achieved through the exercise of strong political will by the Treasury and it will be hard to cut the share much lower. There is

no way that the tax burden could be reduced from its current level of more than 37 per cent of national income to the immediate Saatchi/Warburton objective of 33 per cent, let alone to their ultimate goal of 30 per cent, as in the 1950s, without violating Mr Lilley's pledge.

If Mr Lilley's lecture was full of subtle realism, the Saatchi/Warburton plan is full of grand simplicities. The authors dress up their ideas in the trite populism of "Independence Day", a national holiday when people stop working for the Government and start working for

themselves. But the plan has the appealing theme of ending the overlap between taxes and benefits and exchanging tax allowances, reliefs and exemptions for lower tax rates. There is a lot to be said for tax neutrality and simplicity. But there would be a large number of losers, who would see their benefits and special tax reliefs eliminated.

However, if the Tories want substantially to cut taxes, that inevitably means a smaller welfare state. If they accept Mr Lilley's analysis, how would the Tories differ from new Labour? The key to Labour's success in 1997 was having a clear-cut and credible strategy. The failed media operation backed that up, but was secondary. The Tories need to sort out where they stand.

Hague stands by his man as Tory revolt erupts

WILLIAM HAGUE tried to face down a Shadow Cabinet revolt last night by staking his authority on the abandonment of Thatcherite ideals of reforming the health, education and welfare systems.

With Baroness Thatcher looking on at an event to mark the twentieth anniversary of her election as Prime Minister, Mr Hague threw his back against a move by his deputy Peter Lilley to shift the Tories away from the quest for free-market solutions to the problems of health, education and benefits.

He did so after at least three members of the Shadow Cabinet protested over what they saw as Mr Lilley's attempt to ram through radical change without discussion. They complained that his move had cut short their options in the party's policy review.

Because of the internal dissension caused by advance billing of Mr Lilley's remarks — from which he did not retreat when he delivered them to the Carlton Club last night — Mr Hague devoted a portion of his speech celebrating Lady Thatcher's anniversary to supporting his deputy.

The Hague-Lilley plan is the biggest rhetorical break with the Thatcher years since Mr Hague became leader. It has been prompted by "focus group" findings that much of the Conservatives' unpopularity derives from the public belief that they would privatise

Lilley's rejection of Thatcherite ideals sparks Shadow Cabinet anger, writes Philip Webster

health, education and social security.

A source close to Mr Hague compared the move with Tony Blair's crusade to scrap Clause Four. "Blair slayed the paper dragon of Clause Four because of the perception that it meant Labour would nationalise everything even though we all knew that they would not. Now we have to slay the paper dragon of the perception that we will privatisate health and education, even though of course we would never have done that."

In his speech Mr Lilley said the Conservative "Achilles heel" was the party's supposedly hostile attitude to the welfare state, particularly health and education. He repeated that the Tories could only renew public confidence in their commitment to welfare if they "emphatically accept that the free market has only a limited role in improving public services like health, education and welfare".

In a remark that astonished some Thatcherite MPs, he added: "Unless and until we are prepared to accept that there is more to life and more to Conservatism than defending and extending the free market we will always be on the intellectual back-foot where the public services are concerned."

Mr Lilley's words had alarmed frontbench colleagues. Iain Duncan Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, demanded and got a meeting with him on Monday but he refused to budge.

There were also strong complaints from Gillian Shephard, the Shadow Environment Secretary, that the move had not been cleared with the Shadow Cabinet, and from Ann Widdecombe, the Shadow Health Secretary, whose main policy proposals since her appointment last summer have included ideas for large injections of private money into the health service.

At a private seminar yesterday Michael Portillo also underlined his attachment to private-sector solutions although he made plain that he was not commenting on Mr Lilley's move.

Mr Hague told the Shadow Cabinet that he would be backing Mr Lilley, and sources close to them said there would be no public expressions of discontent. "They are unhappy but he is the leader and they must accept it," one said.

Leading article, page 23



The Scottish Green Party put four faceless models on the streets of Edinburgh yesterday to support their claim that the environmental policies of other parties in the elections to the Scottish parliament are uniformly grey

CAMPAIGN FOR SCOTLAND 99

Scots 'have lost their enterprise'

The nation which produced Adam Smith has been accused of losing its entrepreneurial spirit. In a lecture tonight, David Bell, Professor of Economics at Stirling University, will claim that lack of motivation will hinder economic growth. He will also reject SNP claims that an independent Scotland could, like Ireland, become a "Celtic tiger" economy, and tell young Scots to look abroad and learn lessons from the Far East.

QUOTE of the day

Jim Wallace, Scottish Lib Dem leader, on anti-drugs policy:

"Banging a drug offender up in prison is like locking an alcoholic up in a brewery."

today's AGENDA

Donald Dewar will play bingo in Maryhill while Labour's press conference will focus on science and technology. Jim Wallace, Scottish Lib Dem leader, launches a "Better Business Charter". The Tories talk about drugs.

Three steps to their tax heaven

Tim Hames on how administrative savings could pay healthy dividends

THE programme outlined by Maurice Saatchi and Peter Warburton is aimed at eliminating the complexity that has entered the tax and benefit system over the last 40 years. Income tax "celebrates" its bicentenary this year. It will shortly reach some 39 per cent of national income — the highest peacetime level. Despite this steadily increasing burden, public demand for higher spending on health and education continues to outpace the ability of elected politicians to deliver. Saatchi and Warburton aim to reverse this ratchet through three initiatives.

■ The progressive elimination of present arrangements

which involve comparatively small amounts of taxation being extracted from relatively poor people who then have the same money returned in the form of benefits. The Government now extracts Income Tax and National Insurance contributions from 17 million households with incomes below £20,000 a year, seven million of which earn less than half that sum. Almost all of these people then receive benefits that have been in part

drained by tax contributions. Saatchi and Warburton seek a single cut-off point above which people would be taxpayers and below which they would receive benefits.

■ An assault on the 250 tax allowances, credits, exemptions and reliefs that clutter the tax system. These would be abolished to make way for one single large personal allowance and permit a further lowering of tax rates. The same broad principle was followed in the United States during the

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مكتبة الأصل

Bones put man in bed with Neanderthals



Neanderthals shared space and time with modern man, but DNA tests indicate that the two never interbred

THEM AND US

Neanderthal man

- Large head with projecting nose, large teeth and a prominent brow ridge
- Not tall but stocky and muscular; taller men were about 5ft 7ins
- Bones of upper arm much bigger and stronger. Hips suggest that Neanderthals were very active as children, probably following the adults as they hunted and foraged
- Brain large but lying behind the face, not on top of it. The back of the skull was balloon-shaped, with a series of bony crests just behind the ears
- Died out about 30,000 years ago, but may have survived longer in areas such as Spain and Portugal, out of the way of modern human beings
- No language, art or culture

Homo sapiens

- Flatter face, higher forehead and smaller nose than Neanderthal man but larger chin, smaller teeth.
- Taller and more lightly built; men four to six inches taller than Neanderthals
- Brain almost identical in size to Neanderthals (1,200-1,700cc) but located higher above the face
- More sophisticated use of tools, reflected in less strongly developed bones and muscle in upper arm
- Possessed language, developed art and practised ritual, as in the burial of the dead

Nigel Hawkes reports on a scientific discovery that throws new light on the origin of Homo sapiens

THE skeleton of a four-year-old child who died 24,500 years ago reveals that Neanderthals and modern man interbred, an American palaeontologist has claimed.

The skeleton, found in the Lapedo Valley north of Lisbon, has the sturdy limbs of a Neanderthal but the pronounced teeth and chin of Homo sapiens, says Erik Trinkaus of Washington University in St Louis.

The suggestion conflicts with genetic evidence extracted from Neanderthal bones, and published two years ago, which indicated that there had been no interbreeding.

The opportunity was certainly there. Anthropologists believe that the two populations did overlap, both in space and time.

Neanderthal man emerged about 300,000 years ago and did not die out until well after the appearance of early Homo sapiens about 100,000 years ago.

In southern France and the Iberian Peninsula traces of both species, dating to about 30,000 years ago, have been found in the same places. But most experts have dismissed the idea that they might have interbred.

Professor Trinkaus says the Portuguese skeleton provides the proof. "This skeleton, which has some characteristics of Neanderthals and others of early modern humans, demonstrates that early modern humans and Neanderthals are not all that different. They intermixed, interbred and produced offspring," he said. The skeleton was found



Paleontologists unearthing the child's skeleton

buried on a hillside near Leiria, 30 miles north of Lisbon and 19 miles from the Atlantic coast.

The skull had been crushed by a bulldozer but Joao Zilhao of the Portuguese Archaeological Institute led excavations which found a well-preserved lower jaw and skeleton.

"This find refutes strict replacement models of modern human origins — that early modern human beings all emerged from Africa and wiped out the Neanderthal population," Professor Trinkaus said.

A leading exponent of the Out of Africa theory, Chris Stringer of the Natural History Museum, yesterday told BBC Online that he expected the find to make a "major contribution" to debate on how Neanderthals died out.

If interbreeding did occur, modern man will carry genes inherited from Neanderthal ancestors. But this conflicts with the DNA evidence, published by a team led by Svante Paabo of the University of Munich, which showed that Neanderthal DNA differed equally from the DNA of modern man on all five continents.

Had there been interbreeding, the Neanderthal DNA would have been closer to that of modern Europeans because that is where the two populations mixed.

The prominent chin was characteristic of early Homo sapiens while the stocky trunk and short limbs reflected Neanderthals, he said. Arm bones pointed to early modern human parentage. The discovery, which is yet to be pub-

lished, could prove controversial because it questions the Out of Africa theory of the origin of modern man, which holds that he evolved in Africa and spread around the world, displacing the Neanderthals without interbreeding.

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To have or have not



Personal Finance Editor Anne

Ashworth on the financial implications of marriage; how to make savings in the garden; and why personal pension customers could be owed as much as £4,000

Successive surveys predict the demise of matrimony, yet the institution persists. This summer a gaggle of glitterati will tie the knot, presumably in the belief that if cohabitation will soon become the norm, then marriage is chic.

The Spice Girl Victoria Adams and footballer David Beckham will unite their fortunes in June to create a £20 million partnership. Next in line are Sophie Rhys-Jones, a partner in a PR firm, who earns about £80,000, and Edward Windsor, a television producer whose income this year should be £416,000. Close behind in the celebs' altar line stand Zoë Ball, the radio and TV presenter, on a salary of £1.5 million, and Fat Boy Slim, her fiancé, whose dance-music hits should make him at least as wealthy as his wife-to-be.

Like other brides and bridegrooms of the season, these prosperous pairs will now be concentrating on the champagne for the reception and the musculation of the hen-night entertainment. The Government, however, would like couples who are in less easy circumstances to be planning the smooth operation of a joint account as well as the itinerary for the stag night. We should be considering not only the cost of the wedding but all the financial implications of matrimony, too.

The Home Office has recommended that the betrothed should be supplied with a "marriage preparation pack", with details of tax, state benefits and property rights. It also proposes that all couples should draw up prenuptial agreements in recognition of the one in three chance that their relationship will end in divorce. Usually the preserve of Old Money or of New World wealth, these documents set out the division of the marital assets in the event of a split.

However, like other government notions designed to make us more financially prudent, these plans are yet to be finalised. This will come as a relief to those who would prefer a pacer honeymoon read than benefit entitlement terms and conditions.

The contents of the pack may also be causing some embarrassment in Whitehall because they would reveal that the tax benefits of marriage are negligible to many couples, and soon to be nil. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, husband and father, is apparently concerned to support marriage. But Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and bachelor, will next year be abolishing the married couple's tax allowance.

The £1,970 allowance, worth £197 a year, will be abolished in April 2000. A year later it will be replaced by a concession given to families with children whether the parents are married or not. The children's tax credit will be worth, at most, £416 a year. The higher your salary, the less tax credit you receive, so that a household where one partner has an income of £38,500 or more gets nothing. However, if both mother and father earn £30,000 each, they will receive a percentage of the credit.

Pensioners will be entitled to

■ Some of the best guidance comes from divorce lawyers whose services you are less likely to need if you remain financially compatible.

Frances Hughes, the head of the matrimonial department at Bates, Wells & Braithwaite, the solicitors, says: "A lack of openness in money matters leads to problems, as does unnecessary financial dependence. Wherever possible each spouse should have their own bank account and do their own budgeting. A feeling of being powerless in the relationship, of having to ask for money, causes disagreements."

The contemporary money management model is based on three accounts — his, hers and theirs. The joint account is used to pay the mortgage and other household expenses. If one partner does not use the personal tax allowance of £4,335, a meeting should be held to discuss putting some of



Rolling down the aisle: David Beckham and Victoria Adams. Fat Boy Slim and Zoë Ball

the joint savings into his or her name only. This will allow him or her to receive tax-free interest up to the level of the allowance and limits the household's tax liability.

■ For the wealthy, marriage still holds significant tax benefits, as John Battersby, a tax partner at the accountants KPMG, points out. There is, for example, the opportunity to cut a bill for capital gains tax. If your spouse cannot use his or her tax-free allowance of £7,100 and you would face a large bill from the sale of some asset, say shares, then transfer them tax-free to your spouse. He or she then sells the shares, sets the gain against his or her

allowance and limits the household's tax liability.

■ You can bequeath your whole estate tax-free to your spouse. Leave it to anyone else and inheritance tax at the rate of 40 per cent is payable on the portion above £231,000. Couples should draw up wills to take advantage of the spousal concession and the tax-free portion. Whatever the size of your joint bank balance, if your spouse dies intestate, you automatically inherit portion of the estate; cohabitantes do not enjoy such rights.

■ Prenuptial agreements are not yet legally binding in Britain, but their popularity is rising, not only among those who wish to protect City bonuses from estranged spouses.

Expect soon to see the pre-nup on the pre-wedding *à la carte menu* in Bridal Professionals' menus. Professional couples often believe that the ability to discuss how houses and savings will be managed throughout the marriage — not only at its ending — is a sign of emotional maturity in a prospective partner. Sarah Antonioli, of Campbell Hooper, the solicitors, says: "A pre-nup is part of sensible financial planning."

These same serious-minded young people also insure their weddings with Cornhill or Ecclesiastical against such calamities as the destruction of the dress or the bankruptcy of the catering company. Policies cost from £45. But latterday Miss Havishams should be aware that they will not be covered for cancellation of the event if the other party has a sudden change of heart.

■ Contacts: Cornhill: 0171-526 5410; Ecclesiastical: 0800 336622.

Royal match: Sophie Rhys-Jones and Edward Windsor

30 27 99 55

No claim, no gain in pensions row

NO ONE likes being shortchanged or being served poor-quality goods, which is probably why most of us would kick up a fuss if we were served a hotdog without enough mustard.

However, if you are one of the millions who has recently received a letter marked "R.U. Owed", you have the chance to rectify a far greater financial wrong than simply getting an under-garnished sausage in a roll. Filling in the forms attached to the letter could be worth thousands of pounds if you were one of the millions who were wrongly advised to leave or never join a company pension scheme but instead were sold a personal pension. Over the past four months more than three million people have been contacted by their pensions company or financial adviser as part of the personal pensions mis-selling review. But many potential victims have yet to respond, despite an advertising campaign launched by the Financial Services Authority (FSA), the City

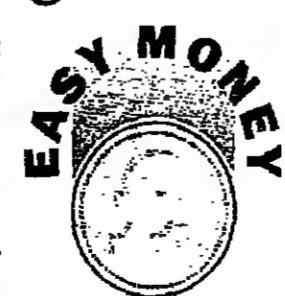
watchdog. The latest ad features a chap who feels that his hotdog does not have enough mustard. If you were sold a personal pension between April 1988 and June 1994 even though you were entitled to join your company's scheme, with its superior benefits, you could be owed as much as £4,000.

So get out the envelope and take a trip down memory lane to that ill-fated meeting when a life insurance salesman persuaded you that a personal pension was the only option for you.

You will be offered compensation if you can prove that you suffered a loss by failing to join your company scheme at the time. But, whatever your situation, you will get nothing if you do not return the form.

SUSAN EMMETT

● Contacts: FSA helpline: 0800 003 007



NASTY HABITS

One in four women prefers it to sex. No, it's not shopping, it's gardening. It may not be the new rock'n'roll, but there is no denying that gardening is hip. The garden centre is fast replacing the pub as the ideal place for thirtysomethings to spend their spring bank holidays. The launch of *New Eden*, a glossy magazine that seeks to do for gardening what *Wallpaper* did for interior decorating, and exclusive shops such as The Plant Room, a North London specialist that has its catalogue on CD-Rom, reinforce the claims that gardening is terribly trendy.

The problem with gardening — as with all things both modern and cool — is the expense. Prices paid by gardeners for the same goods probably vary more than in any other area of consumer spending. Small, specialist garden centres and shops are much more expensive than the big chains such as Homebase or B&Q.

At the Chelsea Gardener, a 4ft-tall Tuscan Waterlady complete with silicone implants and dispirited expression will set you back £495. Or you could purchase a decorative conservatory pineapple for £295, though why you would want to put a slightly rusty metal globe crowned with a pinecone in your conservatory is anyone's guess.

On the more tasteful side, you could splash out on an eight-seater metal and fake marble table, perfect for summer dinner parties, for £1,635. The drawback is that you also have to buy the eight chairs at £399 each, setting you back £4,327 for the whole caboodle.

If you do decide to buy outrageously priced sculptures or garden furniture, it is a good idea to insure them. Otherwise you could find yourself in the situation that Brian Sewell, the art critic, found himself in last week when thieves made off with life-size marble busts of John Locke and Emperor Augustus and a bronze bust of an obscure Italian politician from Mr Sewell's garden.

You can make huge savings by avoiding the trendiest garden centres and posh Islington boutiques. Frequenting the major chain stores or supermarkets can save you a packet. The price war between the big DIY chains is cut-throat. This has led to brutal cost-cutting and, especially at this time of year when stores are trying to attract customers, obvious loss-leaders. Growbags, for example, can cost just 99p.

Even for basic implements, the differences in price are staggering. A 30-metre hose from Chelsea Gardener costs five times as much as it would from Homebase. A spade costs almost four times as much: £46.95.

Added to your savings on the basics, your cost-cutting has saved a total of £1,248 — enough to pay off half the interest payments on a £50,000 mortgage for the year. Invested as a lump sum in the Barclays FTSE-100 index tracker for five years, you could save £2,500, based on past performance.

Be warned, however, that your garden may suffer as a result of all this cost-cutting. Expensive garden centres are expensive for a reason. They tend to be staffed by real enthusiasts who know the plants they are selling and the conditions in which they will flourish, so you are less likely to end up with plants unsuited to your garden or roof terrace that wither within weeks of purchase.

PAULA HAWKINS



against £11.99. A gardening fork is nearly double the price: £29.95 against £14.99 at Homebase. Compost can cost as little as £3.99 for 80 litres (that's about the maximum most people could lift into the back of a car without help). Chelsea Gardener sells 75 litres for £5.99.

Accessories are also much cheaper at the major DIY stores. A bird table costs £41.95 at Chelsea Gardener, £22.99 at Homebase. A glazed blue pot costs £120 in Chelsea, £49.99 from Homebase, while a terracotta pot costs £300 from the Chelsea Gardener. £24.99 from Homebase.

This means that before you have even got to the plants, you could save £438.32 by stocking up at Homebase rather than in Chelsea. Once you do get to the plants, the price differentials are massive depending on whether you grow the plant from seed or buy a more mature plant.

For example, a small *Viburnum Tinus* costs £2.99 from Homebase, or £90 for a fully grown plant from Chelsea Gardener. You can buy a rhododendron seedling for just £3.99 from Homebase, or the same, mature plant for £120 from Chelsea Gardener, or £3.99 for a younger plant from Homebase. A 6in-high Japanese maple from Homebase costs £6.99, while the fully grown version will set you back a hefty £60 at Chelsea Gardener.

The disadvantage of growing plants from seed is that you need lots of space, ideally a greenhouse and plenty of time and dedication for all the pinching out, potting on and watering. However, this is offset by the feelings of pride and satisfaction that you will get from the knowledge that you have nurtured the plant to maturity — not to mention the additional saving of £810, based on the prices of the three plants mentioned here.

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Excuse me, what is mind-blowing sex?

"WHAT is sexy?" demands the huge red-and-white banner hanging over the Jacob K Javits Convention Center on 35th Street, usually home to New York's computer and auto shows, but this week taken over by Erotica USA, Manhattan's biggest exhibition so far about sex.

The programme promises "everything that is new and exciting in erotic music videos, piercing and wine and spirits...". Inside, the Center is a jumble of stalls selling erotic pictures, penis fruit gums, nipple lollipops and latex clothing.

I wander over to join a small crowd gathered around a stall called The Erogenous Zone, A Swingers' Club For the Next Millennium. Behind the salesman, a tall blonde girl in micro, crutch-hugging shorts is riding a child's rocking horse and spooning melon chunks out of a plastic cup.

"It is for people who want to try swinging but haven't dared," explains Martin Davis, national sales director.

Above him a television set is demonstrating the Erogenous Zone's Boom Boom Room, an adult version of a bouncy castle where you can jump on dozens of inflatable sex dolls.

There is also an artist's impression of adult swings, sturdier versions of the playground variety, to be ridden while you are naked.

Martin reads aloud from the brochure: "Who doesn't have fond memories of hours spent with stuffed animals and cuddly toys."

The suggested entrance fee is \$80 per couple," he continues. "Men must arrive with a female partner. Women may enter singly and are charged \$40." He adds: "We will also have a room with

stuffed animals and cuddly toys."

"Have you had much interest in the franchise?" I ask.

"Oh yes," he smiles. "It costs \$30,000 a year and next year we're opening in New



Joanna Coles
NEW YORK LIFE

as Roman gladiators. In another stall, designed like a doctor's reception, a quartet of blondes with bug-eyed augmented breasts are campaigning for Brad J Jacobs, "award-winning breast-implant surgeon", whose handiwork they are demonstrating. According to Brad's banner, he "invented the procedure to correct the problems of saline implant augmentation".

I pause at another stand presided over by a portly, bearded, pornographer Al Goldstein, Editor and founder of Screw magazine. He is wearing a florid jerkin that matches his complexion and sucking a chocolate finger.

"I'm leaving America," he announces. "I'm going to Amsterdam, where I can smoke Cuban cigars in peace. At 63 I'm an embarrassment to my son."

Suddenly he encircles my waist with a bearish arm and hauls me on to his lap. "I love you and think of you," he rasps, breathing hot chocolate fumes on me. I squirm

free and escape to the morning lecture.

"Raise your hands if you're comfortable talking about sexual experimentation," cries Sari Locker, the relationship correspondent for Channel 2 News. Today's lecture is called Mind-blowing Sex in the Real World. There are 28 of us in the audience. Sari, author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Amazing Sex*, tries again. "Come on, raise your hands," she orders. Eventually, five hands go up

brightly. "Do you want to repeat your question?" The woman mouths again.

"The question is, 'How do you move from one fetish to another?'" roars Sari, making a lasso of the microphone cable and striding to the front of the stage as we all swing round to check the woman out.

"With a fetish, communication is very important," Sari replies.

"And it may be, in the end, that a couple don't have sexual compatibility."

The questioner looks nonplussed and a grey-haired couple slide out.

"Any other questions?" Sari's eyes roam desperately until they settle on my neighbour, an attractive older woman who half raises her hand. "What is mind-blowing sex? I mean, how do you achieve it?"

Sari nods. "Is that your husband with you?" she asks, motioning to the man sitting next to her. The woman smiles noncommittally. "Hello, sir," Sari says anyway. "I

define mind-blowing sex as when you're totally in the moment. It's like when you know that you are protected from STDs and you're not thinking about how fat your thighs are."

My neighbour stares back doubtfully. "I'm older and I have a slightly different perspective," she says hesitantly. "Do you give the same advice to married people as to young people?"

"Well, in marriage there is the issue of sexual boredom," says Sari. "But you can always try different things. Wear a wig! Lose weight, then it's like having sex with a new body! If you're a man, buy a penile expander!"

"A woman doesn't need to have breast augmentation; she can put plastic implants in her bra," she continues earnestly. "Or have sex in a business suit!"

We contemplate this advice until, finally, another woman, sitting on her own, puts her hand up. "Can it still be mind-blowing sex if you feel lonely or sad afterwards?"

Caught in the crossfire

During the breakdown of a relationship, the subsequent separation and divorce, one or both parents will have to cope not only with their own feelings but with those of their children. Children are the innocent victims of a relationship that breaks down. They are the reason that parents remain in contact long after the dust has settled on their divorce. They are the ones whom parents should try their utmost to protect from the devastation that an acrimonious divorce can wreak. It will at times be unavoidably difficult.

If you succeed, the reward will be well-adjusted and balanced children who will be able to enjoy time with both parents and who can make the most of having two homes.

Children in divorce need to know that both parents still love them; that their parents are divorcing each other, not divorcing themselves from the children. They need to know that by showing love for one parent, they are not betraying the other; that they can continue to love both parents openly without each parent competing for more love. And the only way this can be achieved is through reassurance from both parents.

But how do you do this



In the final extract from her new book, **Simone E. Katzenberg**, a family solicitor, says children must come first

when your partner is demanding contact with the children but refusing to pay maintenance, or flaunting his or her new partner while you suffer the pain of the breakdown? Or when your partner blocks or sabotages your efforts to maintain a relationship with your children? What you really need to avoid is your children being caught in the middle of a tug-of-war in which no one wins anything.

You need to be constantly aware of the effect that your behaviour will have on the children. Thoughtless or vindictive behaviour towards your partner can rebound, often unintentionally, on the children. Think before you act.

The children need time to adjust. Constant and ferocious conflict between their parents

does not help them. There must never be a contest over who has more time with the children; the children must not be made to feel that they have to choose one parent over the other. It may be that in order to avoid a battle, one of you has to back off to protect your child from a wrangle.

At each stage, step back and try to separate the way you feel towards each other from the way you feel towards your children. Listen to the motives behind your actions and try with all honesty to put the children first, doing what is right for them even if it does not necessarily satisfy your needs.

How do you tell the children? At the breakdown stage, many parents cannot control their emotions in each other's presence. The children may

have been exposed to frequent tantrums and rages and it may be impossible for the parents to sit down together and explain their plans to them. The situation at home may have been unstable for so long that the children realise it is just a matter of time before one parent goes. That in itself may be a relief to them as it will end the constant bickering and conflict.

In ideal circumstances, you may want to wait a while before you break the news to the children. However, your distress may mean that it is impossible to continue putting it on a brave front.

If you can tell the children together, do so. The children can be assured that even though Mum and Dad can and will no longer live together, their continued love for them remains, independent of their feelings for each other. You can all cry together and answer questions the children may have.

Provide as much reassurance as you can that they will be able to see the parent who is leaving. What has happened has nothing to do with them but is between you as adults.

Your dual role as parents will continue. It will be the beginning of a period of adjustment for all of you, and you must take it one step at a time.

You may be the parent who is left to tell the children without the support of the other parent. Choose a time when no one is in a hurry to get anywhere, no guests are expected and a favourite television programme is not about to start.

Wait until homework is complete, take the telephone off the hook, hold each other and talk. If a child is about to take exams or a birthday party is imminent, it may be better to wait until later.

It is important to notify the schools of the situation and to talk to the children's head teachers. The school can give your child any extra attention and support needed, and alert you if any difficulties arise as a result of the breakdown.

If you are the parent who leaves home, notify the school of your change of address. The

school can keep you informed of all school activities and functions as well as send you reports, as extra reports need to be requested. If your relationship has broken down to the extent that you are not talking to each other at all, this is important to preserve access information about the children at school.

During the early stages of separation, try to be perceptive towards the often silent signals that children give when they are uncertain and distressed. Encourage them to talk to you — or a close friend or other family member — about their concerns. Avoid attributing blame to the other parent. Step back and see how the children feel, and think of how you can help them. Try to put your feelings for them first. They do not need to be caught in the crossfire of emotions.

If you are the parent who has left, you may desperately want to see the children every day. Try not to demand more than your partner will permit as you will only stir up conflict frequently in the presence of the children.

Reassure your partner that you are not trying to take the children away. If your partner does not feel threatened, you are likely to find that contact is increased. By stepping back a little you are removing the power that your former partner can exert over you.

If you have been left with the children and they speak to your partner on the phone, leave them alone and do not interrupt. If you are the caller, it does not help to criticise the other parent or to tell the children how unhappy you are.

Confide over the children will continue if your partner is stuck in an emotional stage that you have moved through. If you experience continual difficulties over contact with the children, keep a diary of all telephone calls and contact. This should include attempts to speak to the children when they are "unavailable" and when the answering machine is on in an attempt to block calls, and details of when contact takes place.

Telephone calls may be monitored/recoded for staff training purposes. Terms and conditions regarding the P&O Stena Line offer will be sent with your quotation. Saga Services Limited would like to send you information on other Saga products and services and may pass on your details to other Saga companies for this purpose. *As defined in the policy conditions.

● Extracted from *I Want a Divorce?* by Simone E. Katzenberg, published on May 6 by Kyle Cathie, £9.99. Copyright 1999. *Times* readers can order this title for £7.99 with free p&p by calling *The Times Bookshop* on 0990 13459.



Innocent victims: most children of divorced parents eventually learn to cope, but it is vital to consider their emotional needs before your own

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

THE TIMES

Free book vouchers

This week *The Times*, in support of World Book Day, offers readers the chance to save on the cost of books. Printed below is the third of six vouchers that will appear in *The Times* until Saturday. Each voucher gives you £1 off any book or audiobook worth £2.95 or more, or entitles you to receive a free copy of *The Children's Book of Books* 1999 or *The Grown-Ups' Book of Books* (pictured). A voucher will also appear in *The Sunday Times* books section on Sunday. Present the vouchers, between April 23 and May 3, at one of the thousands of bookstores participating in the World Book Day offer. Only one voucher per transaction permitted. Offer subject to availability of titles in stock



A gift from your bookseller of
£1 off
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Alternatively, this voucher may be exchanged for *The Children's Book of Books* 1999 or *The Grown-Ups' Book of Books*, if stocked by the retailer, and while stocks last.

VALID: FRIDAY, APRIL 23 TO MONDAY, MAY 3, 1999 (INCLUSIVE)

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A scorpions' tale of new Labour

Roland Watson on the feuds

that poison Mandelson's life

It takes a rare mix of the brilliant and the flawed, the spiky and the exotic to elbow aside the Balkans and secure a leading slot on the war-dominated news agenda. But one Labour politician has it. Peter is back. Back in the news and soon to be back in the Government, according to the excited gossip surrounding the launch of a biography, Mr Mandelson's second of the year.

Whereas the first book took delight in helping to knock him out of Government, the mood music around the second is about rehabilitation. Mr Mandelson is less than four months into an uncertain sentence but already talk of a comeback is in the air. And yet the details contained in Donald Macintyre's book, published today, though considerably less explosive than Paul Routledge's home loan revelation, may yet turn out to be more corrosive.

The portrait emerging of the former Trade and Industry Secretary adds to his reputation as a famously complex man. He is a prima donna prone to fits of petulance and dramatic door-slamming exits, but also a suffering servant who is prepared to resign rather than allow his epically bad relations with Gordon Brown threaten Labour's election hopes. He is someone with enough self-awareness to parody himself as Tony Blair's "little helper". But he is also the reticent celebrity, fiercely protective of his sexuality.

Mr Mandelson has always had the power to discomfit the caudous and confound expectations. But even those accustomed to his distinctive style have raised eyebrows at his latest media strategy. Mr Macintyre's book is enlivened by extensive quotation from a slew of private letters, including some very intimate notes received by Mr Mandelson from Mr Blair.

It appears likely that Mr Mandelson chose to unburden himself dramatically after his departure from Cabinet just before Christmas. Mr Macintyre's book has not overshot its deadline for nothing. Those close to Mr Mandelson suggest the increased level of co-operation this year was designed to imbue the whole exercise with a cathartic quality.

But how is Mr Blair to feel now that the privacy of his correspondence with Mr Mandelson has been made public? How helpful has Tony's little helper been in revealing that the new Labour project was almost blown apart by two of its strongest personalities? Will the Prime Minister find this feud erupting into the public domain in all its pious detail a "cathartic" experience?

And how, too, is Gordon Brown to feel when he reads the words of Michael Wills, a junior Trade and Industry minister and a part of the Chancellor's inner circle. Mr Wills said of Messrs Brown and Mandelson that they were "like scorpions in a bottle; only one of them will crawl out alive".

The Brown camp is declining to comment on the book.

The fact that the Red Lion no longer enjoys as much patronage from Charlie Whelan has meant the waters between the adversaries remain calmer than they might be.

Moreover, Mr Brown has been making genuine attempts to help Mr Mandelson through a gentle rehabilitation. He has brought him into the planning of the Scottish election campaign and the pair have had several post-resignation meetings to try to reheat their relationship.

But how will the sheer acrimony of their relationship, understandably described by Mr Macintyre as dysfunctional, help them if and when they become ministerial colleagues again? Cartoonists will have a field day as they address the question of how many scorpions can survive around a Cabinet table.

Mr Mandelson continues to have fervent supporters in Downing Street who yearn for his return. Blairite ministers have been discreetly canvassing Westminster opinion as to the likely impact of an early Mandelson return. The clear implication is that Mr Blair has not ruled out a comeback for his friend before the next general election.

But does the Government need him? Relations between Nos 10 and 11 have been considerably better since his departure. Ministers no longer feel quite the same need to hasten around Whitehall watching their backs with feverish concern.

At the Trade and Industry Department Stephen Byers is delivering a broadly Mandelsonian agenda, with the odd tweak here and there, albeit with less of a pro-European agenda. The Government is hardly less popular for his absence, with poll ratings remaining stratospheric.

There is a strain of thought, heretical to his supporters, that the evidence of the past few months shows that Mr Mandelson was the crucial cog in Labour's pre-election wheel and may yet play a similar role in future elections, but that is where he operates best.

Such a view ignores Mr Mandelson's success at the DTI, where civil servants still mourn his departure, and the fact that it would help Mr Blair if his chief adviser was allowed into the Cabinet loop again.

But it is hard to see Mr Mandelson's return being accelerated by this week's revelations. Members of the "Way Back" group of Blairites dedicated to his return were plotting the Mandelson comeback over homely shepherd's pie and supermarket red wine in the weeks before the book came out. They were confident that a more rounded picture of their friend would begin to emerge this year. They were delighted with his more restrained, almost puritan, back-bench profile. But, once again, by thrusting himself forward, Mr Mandelson is not letting his complex character be seen in the best light.

comment@the-times.co.uk

'On trains, Her Majesty is allowed to smoke in the lavatories, although not cigars or pipes'

Since today is HM the Queen's unofficial birthday, I know that you will want me not only to wish her many happy unofficial returns on all our behalfs, but also to take this opportunity to reply to those countless thousands of you who wrote to me regarding the recent Buckingham Palace statement that the Queen was exempt, "by reason of her special position", from the law requiring her subjects to wear a rear seatbelt. Were there, you clamoured to learn, any other special dispensations which Her Majesty alone enjoyed?

The reason that I have not replied earlier is because, not surprisingly, there turned out to be a huge amount of painstaking research involved, but I'm delighted to tell you that I am now, at last, in a position to publish in the national interest what I hope with all my heart is a usefully informative — if by no means comprehensive — list.

When not travelling by car, for example, Her Majesty is uniquely entitled to stand upstairs on all our behalfs, but also to take this opportunity to reply to those countless thousands of you who wrote to me regarding the recent Buckingham Palace statement that the Queen was exempt, "by reason of her special position", from the law requiring her subjects to wear a rear seatbelt. Were there, you clamoured to learn, any other special dispensations which Her Majesty alone enjoyed?

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Alan Coren



informative — if by no means comprehensive — list.

When not travelling by car, for example, Her Majesty is uniquely entitled to stand upstairs on all our behalfs. Should she spit, however, she is liable to the same fine as anyone else, although she would, of course, be given time to pay. On trains, she is allowed to smoke in the lavatories, but not cigars or pipes. She may also lean out of the window without penalty, except on InterCity routes. On the London Underground, she may not go up a down escalator, or vice-versa, but she is allowed to jump over the barrier if she hears her Tube train coming, provided she has a valid ticket for the journey. When flying, she is not permitted to get up before the plane has come to a complete halt, but she does not have to take care when opening the overhead lockers. She is of course, allowed to lean her

bicycle against shop windows.

Sport, as you might expect, is a somewhat more complex jurisdictional area for Her Majesty. When bowling, she is permitted to deliver more than one bouncer per over — except in one-day matches — but she is nevertheless required to observe current ECB dress-codes and not wear a headscarf when batting or fielding. She can be given out lbw, but never stumped, and in the unfortunate event of a run-out, it is her partner who must surrender his wicket, irrespective of fault. As to football, the Queen is allowed, when playing in goal, to move before a penalty is struck, and would not normally be sent off for bad language, unless violence were involved. In rug-

ger, she does not need to call for a mark or leave the field when bleeding, and in tennis she may abuse her racket as much as she likes. In athletic competition, she is allowed four attempts at the high jump and, when throwing the hammer, to put one foot, but not both, outside the circle. The Queen is also uniquely permitted to carry a spare baton in the 4x400 relay, in case she drops one. In snooker, she is permitted to pot the six remaining colours in any order she chooses. Should her opponent go down during a boxing match, Her Majesty is not required to walk to a neutral corner.

She is allowed to busk on her highway, but not in public houses which do not have a

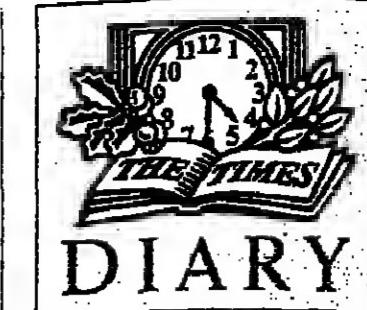
music licence. In zoos (with the exception of Whipsnade), Her Majesty is permitted to feed the animals.

When it comes to shopping, the Queen is allowed to go through the checkout marked "6 items or less" with 7 items or more, but no special dispensation applies in regard to taking the trolley from the premises. In Post Offices, staff may not ask her to go to the next counter, and in petrol stations she does not have to switch off the engine while filling up, though she must take the cigarette out of her mouth. She is allowed to bring her dog into foodshops, but if it wiggles against anything, she is not exempt from prosecution, provided a notice to that effect is prominently displayed.

Should, however, a notice be

public place stating that bill stickers will be prosecuted, Her Majesty may safely ignore this, just as she may with impunity disregard any injunction to leave these premises as she would wish to find them. She is not, mind, exempt from the law in the matter of spraying graffiti, and if told to use the toothbrush before entering a public swimming-pool, she is legally obliged to comply. She is allowed to drop litter only in the royal parks, but may walk on the grass wherever she takes a fancy to do so.

And finally, when driving — in addition to the seatbelt dispensation with which we began all this — Her Majesty is also allowed to hoot after 1pm, and overtake in the Blackwall Tunnel. If she were to park on a double-yellow line, however, her car would be liable to be towed away, but only by a peer of the realm, with a silken rope.



Willson wheels

READERS are doubtless impressed with the passion Quentin Willson, a presenter on the BBC's *Top Gear*, displays when condemning the evils of "clocking".

Quentin, the Nissan Micra to Jeremy Clarkson's Rolls-Royce, has been a victim himself of the Arthur Daley practice of rewinding mileometers. But in his case he ended up being convicted of supplying a clocked car before he joined the TV series in 1991.

Willson (left, pictured with Clarkson) emphasises it was ignorance. As a former car dealer himself, he bought the vehicle at auction, was unaware of its true mileage and sold it on to a private buyer, and then came unstuck.

A friend of his at the BBC says: "Quentin wants improved legislation in this area. He wants consumers and the motor industry to be better protected, which is why he writes about it in his column."



A PLUTOGRAT bearing a vague resemblance to Geoffrey Robinson, now free to spend more time with his money, was sighted at The Savoy. Gloomily, the figure reflected: "It is very difficult to buy a decent bottle of wine in London for under £400 these days."

IT IS a rare privilege to read one's own obituary. But as Dave Swarbrick learnt of his demise in *The Daily Telegraph* he had reason to believe that reports of his death had been rather exaggerated.

Jilly, wife of the former Fairport Convention violinist, awoke to an anxious call from a friend, "It came as a sledgehammer," she says. Now our Dave had been a bit pecky (his emphysema had been aggravated by a chest infection and he had been flown back from Germany to a Coventry hospital); but he had just moved to an ordinary ward and was looking forward to a visit from a physio. Swarb, as he is known to intimates, took it well: "It's not the first time I have died in Coventry."

Those undertakers on *The Daily Telegraph* obituary desk (who always look forward to a cold snap) say simply: "We were just misinformed, that's all." I, for one, wish Mr Swarbrick a speedy recovery.



DOES Martin Bell want to move to Manhattan? On a beano to Kosovar just before the bombing, the man in white lobbied United Nations sorts about the possibility of a juicy job once his mandate as Tatton's MP runs out. But I hear his audience was distinctly unimpressed with our Mart.

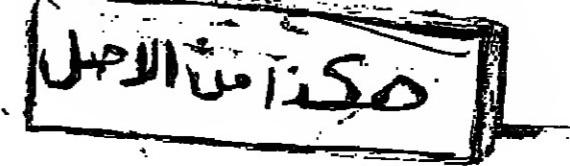
Russians at the UN feel that when he was reporting the Bosnian war he was too matey with the Muslims, who they thought were just as beastly as the Croats and Serbs. The Russians would block his appointment because they feel Bell's stance would be unhelpful.

PRINCIPLES are handy. Luciano Benetton, he of the tasteless adverts and even more alarming jumpers, has refused to pay tax on his Argentine properties. It's not that he's tight, you understand: Mr Benetton is protesting against a recent land tax hike — to a crippling 3 per cent.

CHERIE BOOTH's motivation for joining Labour in 1970 when she was a sweet 16 was purely romantic. She was recruited into the Young Socialists by a Mrs Speight, a teacher at her school (was this ethical, me wonders).

The PM's wife admits: "I joined with friends. I suspect our motives were more social than political as it was a good way to meet boys." Later she learnt that there were better catches to be had in chambers than on those dreary ban the bomb marches.

JASPER GERARD





Willson wheels

FOOD FOR THE TABLE

Tories need big ideas not small improvements

William Hague spent last night at a dinner to mark the 20th anniversary of Margaret Thatcher's initial election as Prime Minister. He paid a full and appropriate tribute, mindful all the while of the giant gulf between his current prospects and her past achievements. Anniversaries are potent fathers of mythology. It is fashionable in certain Tory circles today to present the Conservative manifesto of 1979 as a seed that contained within it a fully-developed philosophy and programme. In truth, this document was a much more modest text.

That Conservative manifesto did, however, concentrate on the right issues. Mrs Thatcher identified the basic rate of income tax, trade union power, and the dire performance of a state-saturated economy as the central questions. These were, to borrow from Mr Hague's recently adopted vocabulary, the "kitchen-table" issues that then absorbed the electorate. The Thatcher Governments proposed radical solutions but imposed their approach step-by-step. This combination of steely principle with subtle practice has ensured her legacy.

Maurice Saatchi and Peter Lilley were both significant figures in the Thatcher years. Lord Saatchi was then known primarily for his powers of presentation. Mr Lilley for his policy initiatives. In a pamphlet published by the Centre for Policy Studies today and in the Rab Butler memorial lecture delivered yesterday these two men have traded places. Lord Saatchi and Dr Peter Warburton put forward the sort of radical plan for the reform of the tax and benefits system that would once have been associated with Mr Lilley. The former Cabinet minister explored the reasons why voters do not trust the Tories to run public services in a public spirited manner and what might be done to rectify this.

Lord Saatchi has made much the more convincing transformation. He argues that the Conservatives need a small set of big ideas that must include a fresh initiative on taxation. This contrasts with the views of the Conservative leader who has convinced himself that his party is seen as "obsessed by economics". According to the Saatchi thesis, voters shifted their support in 1997 because Tony Blair had eased concerns about Labour's competence to protect their incomes and because the Conservatives, after the ERM exit and huge tax increases, had betrayed their supporters. In short, on economics the Tories were not working.

The radical proposals to address this failure rest on a simplification of the tax and benefits system and at this stage, as the authors concede, are not fully developed. Currently small amounts of tax are extracted from a large number of relatively poor people who then need to have their incomes "topped up" by benefits. As well as stopping this, the authors would like to eradicate the vast numbers of tax allowances and reliefs within what is a hideously complicated tax structure. These two ideas

would allow for the merger of several government agencies, thus producing administrative savings that could be redirected towards health and education spending.

This emphasis on tax simplification is right in itself and also one on which the Conservative Party should have already been offering proposals. It has not put forward ideas of consequence in this or any other area. A policy review is taking place under Mr Lilley; but if it were to move any more slowly a bunch of flowers and a letter of condolence would be in order.

In his lecture the Tory deputy leader noted that the Tories were not seen as credible custodians of public services because all too often they appeared to have nothing positive to articulate about them. He suggested that his party would not be able to advance enhanced private provision within a public-private partnership while its real objective appeared to be an outright privatisation of services for which there was no free market alternative.

Mr Lilley should then have outlined the language and policies that might persuade voters to embrace a different balance between public and private activity. Instead he stressed the limits of market economics with such intensity as to convince his listeners that the private sector was already making the maximum desirable contribution. He claimed that there was "no logical reason why any Conservative would want to restrict provision of health care, education or welfare below what the general public want and are prepared to pay for". Incremental improvement was the best he could offer.

This was less the Rab Butler than the Neville Chamberlain memorial lecture. Mr Lilley asserted that the NHS as currently constituted provided a level of service that works "as well as any in the world". He thought that education policy required devolving power not to parents, headteachers or schools but to teachers. Instead of demanding further welfare reform he seemed proud that the current discredited edifice had been "safe in our hands". If the rest of the Tory policy review looks anything like this farago from the focus groups, there will be little hope for the party at the next election.

Mr Hague has rightly told the Shadow Cabinet that it must concentrate on the issues that matter to ordinary voters. The Conservatives must also associate themselves with substantial solutions to these core problems. They should pursue radical ends by empathetic means not incremental ends by means that are pathetic. Lord Saatchi and Peter Warburton have pointed the Conservative Party in the right direction. Mr Lilley seems, sadly, to prefer a form of intellectual surrender. Mr Hague must obtain a tighter grip on the policy process. There is little point in asking voters to sit around the kitchen table if all the Tories can provide is such gruel.

BEYOND THE BALKANS

Ankara's new Government should beware the call of the wild

Moderate Turkey has swung towards nationalism. In elections this week, 38 million voters favoured the Democratic Left party of Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit and also the far-right Nationalist Action party known to history as the Grey Wolves. The result makes it likely that Turkey's next government will be a robust coalition led by these two forces.

There is less to fear from this than meets the eye. The vote marks discontent with the weak political establishment; the desire it shows for strong government is positive. Graft and feuds have crippled six Governments since 1995. Economic reform is stalled. Ankara has failed to quell Kurdish nationalist unrest in the southeast. Requests to join the European Union have been snubbed.

This secular protest against Turkey's weakness is less alarming than the religious protest of elections in 1995. A shortlived Islamic Government irritated the army, which saw it as a threat to the secular constitution. The army will be relieved by the Islamists' slump now.

Mr Ecevit has become the symbol of national decisiveness by luck. He took over

just a few weeks before the February capture of Kurdish nationalist Abdullah Ocalan, which prompted a surge of gratitude. But the respect he commands for ordering the invasion of Cyprus in 1974 will make him a stable coalition leader.

There is no immediate cause for concern about Turkey's foreign policy. Chilly relations with Europe could get chillier. But Europeans have only themselves to blame, after shabby treatment of a state whose wish for closer ties deserves respect.

What would cause alarm would be a more aggressive stance towards Turkey's rival, Greece, or bolder policy in its Balkan backyard. Either would worsen regional tension and revive fears of Turkish invasion among Greeks and Serbs. Here, Mr Ecevit should muzzle his probable partners. Nationalist Action's pan-Turkic ideology holds that Turks from the Balkans to China are one nation, led across the world by a legendary grey wolf. In the 1970s, they used violence; now they promise tamer tactics. But snapping at Kurds or regional rivals must be avoided.

It would be dangerous to let the grey wolves have their head.

NOT BY SEA

New Roman ships but no Latin love

A schoolboy, gazing at a map of the Roman Empire, might deduce that the Romans were skilled sailors, whose power rested on their maritime might. Rome was so conveniently placed for the sea. And it was surely the most awkward place from which to run a land empire: an army had to march half way up Italy before it could even begin a journey anywhere.

The opposite was the case. The Romans were not natural sailors. Evidence of their power is the straight roads which criss-cross Europe, not shipwrecks. Earlier this week, archaeologists near Pisa exhumed eight Roman ships. One might be the first warship ever found on what the Romans had the chutzpah to call "mare nostrum", our sea.

Rome's weakness was most seriously exposed when Carthage sent a fleet against Sicily during the first Punic War. The Romans responded by exploiting and improving others' inventions. Greek ship-builders were employed to build a fleet of

triremes and quinqueremes, the latter patterned after a Carthaginian warship. The Romans then changed naval warfare into something closer to that of a land battle by introducing the *corvus* — a hinged gangplank with a grappling hook. Instead of ramming a ship first, then boarding it later, Roman captains perfected the art of ram-raiding.

These innovations helped Rome to notch up a number of naval victories and secure trade routes to the breadbasket of Egypt. Yet although they boasted of supremacy "terra marique" — on land and sea — the Romans continued to rely on others to crew their boats. Nor, as their poets regularly proved, did they ever love life at sea. Lucretius enjoyed watching, from the safety of land, a ship being tossed about on a stormy sea. He did not relish the suffering of others, merely realising what troubles he had been spared. Romans may have tried to rule the waves, but they never loved being on them.

OSCAR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Labour MP backs war reporters

From Mrs Alice Mahon, MP for Halifax (Labour)

Sir, Congratulations on your leader defending freedom of speech on the bombing of Yugoslavia ("Sword and Pen", April 16). Journalists such as John Simpson [Letters, April 17 and 20], Robert Fisk and Tom Walker, who have the courage to report to us from a country under aerial bombardment, deserve nothing but praise for their efforts, irrespective of whether one agrees with the content of individual reports. Government ministers routinely describe Yugoslav television coverage of the war as hateful propaganda and even threatened at one point to bomb Serb transmitters because, hardly surprisingly, they showed little enthusiasm for Nato bombing their cities to rubble.

Yet the same ministers and officials, who criticise propaganda from the other side, are using anonymous briefings to try to impugn the integrity of the small number of Western journalists providing us with on-the-spot reports of the effects of the bombing being done in our name within Yugoslavia. The reason for this is clear. No objective observer on the spot could fail to note the systematic destruction of the civilian infrastructure by Nato bombers and the fact that virtually the entire Serbian population opposes this — just as much as we would if it were being done to our own country.

It may not be good news to learn that Nato bombs are uniting the Serbs behind Milosevic, or killing civilians every day, but it is certainly relevant when considering the pros and cons of this undeclared and illegal war.

In reality, most of our media are overwhelmingly influenced by Nato's own scarcely credible war propaganda. Journalists who try to report objectively, or have the temerity to ask ministers difficult questions, are performing a public service. They should be praised.

The British public has the right to know the effect of bombing upon the lives and attitudes of the innocent population of Yugoslavia. If this raises questions about the aims and methods being used in what we were told would be a "humanitarian war", then those legitimate public concerns must be debated not suppressed.

Yours faithfully,
ALICE MAHON,
House of Commons.
April 16.

From Mr F. J. Howard

Sir, I'm sure that during the Second World War Winston Churchill would have loved to have had a German reporter in London regularly telling his countrymen how well the British people were standing up to German bombing raids and how firmly united they were behind their leader.

The only reason John Simpson and his ilk are allowed to remain in Belgrade is because it suits Milosevic to have them there.

When it did not suit in Kosovo, he threw them out.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK HOWARD,
37 Alcester Road, Lickey End,
Bromsgrove B60 1JT.
April 17.

From Mr Neven Lezaic

Sir, You note that as Nato bombing continues it will "punder the Yugoslav economy" (leading article, "Clear targets", April 14).

It is hard to imagine how a destroyed and impoverished Serbia will contribute to stability in Europe. Not only does bombing bridges, factories and other non-military targets wreck what little remains of Yugoslavia's near-bankrupt economy but it is also weakening the democratic opposition to Milosevic. Europe already has one country where lawlessness and anarchy prevail, which is Albania. Nato bombs appear to be creating another.

It is also hard to imagine how more bombing will help make Kosovo a safer place for civilians — Albanian and Serbian — given that the bombing has fuelled extremism on both sides.

Any attempt to use ground troops to "drive [Serb forces] out of Kosovo" would lead to enormous casualties. Not only would Serbia be fighting to defend its sovereignty, but it would also be defending its historic heartland. Western leaders continue to underestimate the Serbs' emotional and spiritual attachment to Kosovo. For better or worse, most Serbs would eat grass before giving up Kosovo.

Yours faithfully,
NEVEN LEZAIC,
43 Shepherds Bush Road, W6 7LU.
April 14.

From Mr Anthony Morris

Sir, As a veteran of combined operations on D-Day, in Burma and French Indo-China (now Vietnam), I agree completely with the gist of Mr Crispin Blunt's letter (April 14), but would go further and suggest that if our Prime Minister had been properly advised, he may have been the only person who could have diverted President Clinton from pressing Nato into the current operation with its increasingly tragic results.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY MORRIS,
Carn Brea,
Castle Drive, St Mawes,
Truro, Cornwall TR2 5DE.
April 17.

Reform of prisons and probation

From Mr Terence Crolley

Sir, The Government must make up its mind about the role of compassion in the criminal justice system. Its muddled thinking is neatly demonstrated by the juxtaposition of your two stories on April 14. The first reports that the Chief Inspector of Prisons would like the Prison Service to be more caring; the second that the Home Secretary wants the Probation Service to be more authoritarian.

Is it any wonder the public is confused?

Yours sincerely,
TERENCE CROLLEY
(Assistant Chief Probation Officer, 1984-94),
12 Stanley Road,
Maghull, Merseyside L31 5JL.
April 16.

From Mr Stanley Best

Sir, Having read the report by the Chief Inspectors of Prisons and Probation (article, "Lifers spend too long in prison", April 7) I must agree with the authors that the system is in need of urgent reform. The unevenness of treatment mentioned is reflected in other ways as well.

As counsel instructed on behalf of a number of prisoners seeking, from time to time judicial review of Parole Board decisions, I am told of the difficulties solicitors have in obtaining instructions from prisoners. Whereas many prison officers are helpful and compassionate, some are obstructive.

The solicitor, having booked a visit, may be told or arrival that there is no record of it and cannot see the prisoner. The visiting room at one prison, I am told, seems to be continually "being painted" so that visits are delayed. No sooner are they started, in a corridor, than visiting time is declared at an end.

The solicitor may be rejected for lack of proof of identity, even when he

or she has visited that prison more than once and provided ample proof. I suspect that this difficulty is not confined to one or two individuals and suggest that the chief inspectors should investigate this blot on the system.

There are no uniform visiting hours or days and arranging, from a distance, to make more than one visit a day is impossible.

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY BEST,
Veritas Chambers,
33 Corn Street,
Bristol BS1 1HT.
April 13.

From the Chair of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation

Sir, Your leader ("On probation" (April 14) is right to identify finding legislative time as the greatest hurdle for reform of probation services but we would dispute your conclusion that probation "is unlikely to make good election fodder".

The probation services' business is serious and large-scale; it involves supervision of over 185,000 offenders, including society's most dangerous, difficult and damaged individuals.

A reorganised probation service with national direction, local administration and better integrated with the other criminal justice services like the police and the courts will be of immeasurable public benefit. The significance of bringing forward legislation cannot be underestimated in terms of reducing crime and meeting the Home Secretary's wish for greater public confidence in a more coherent criminal justice system.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFF DOBSON,
Chair, Association of
Chief Officers of Probation,
4th Floor,
8-9 Grosvenor Place, SW1X 7SH.
April 16.

and the Government to reject this idea, which would hinder the development of digital television and operate against the UK's wider industrial interests.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES ALLEN,
Chief Executive, Granada Group and
Chairman, CMTV,
MARK BOOTH,
Chief Executive, BSkyB,
STEVEN CAIN,
Chief Executive, Carlton Communications,
GREG CLARKE,
Chief Executive,
Cable and Wireless Communications,
STEPHEN GRABINER,
Chief Executive, ONdigital,
TONY ILLSLEY,
Chief Executive, Telewest Communications,
FRANK McGETIGAN,
Director and General Manager, Channel 4,
MALCOLM WALL,
Chief Executive,
United Broadcasting and Entertainment,
c/o Granada Group,
Stornoway House,
Cleveland Road, SW1A 1GG.
April 19.

To have given a donation of £50,000 to a party of whatever persuasion can hardly be regarded as a serious qualification for such an influential position.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY S. KEMP,
11 Stevens Lane, Rotherfield Peppard,
Oxfordshire RG9 5RG.
April 20.

New D-G for the BBC

From Mr Henry Kemp

Sir, Let us hope that Sir Christopher Bland, as Chairman of the BBC Governors, will vigorously pursue his assertion (letter, April 20) that the political impartiality of the Corporation has always been and will continue to be jealously guarded. Cracks have certainly appeared in this policy over recent years and the appointment of a new Director-General would afford an excellent opportunity to redress any imbalance perceived of late.

We are assured that the best man for the job will be given the post. To have appeared publicly to have been fervently supporting any particular political party must throw doubt on a candidate's bias.

To have given a donation of £50,000 to a party of whatever persuasion can hardly be regarded as a serious qualification for such an influential position.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY S. KEMP,
11 Stevens Lane, Rotherfield Peppard,
Oxfordshire RG9 5RG.
April 20.

Church standards

From Mr David Wickens

Sir, I am encouraged by the Advertising Standards Authority's ruling against a church that claimed a disabled man had been cured by the power of Jesus (report, April 12).

This is not because I have any doubt about the evidence of healing and Resurrection in the Bible but because I look forward to similar scrutiny by the ASA of the claims made by political parties in their various manifestos.

May we all look forward to appropriate compensation if they fail to meet their promises?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WICKENS,
18 Rusper, Burgess Hill,
West Sussex RH5 0EB.
April 12.

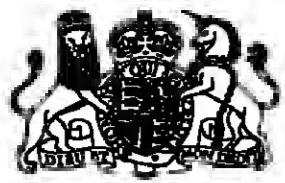
Years of training

From Mr Jamie Pearson

Sir, At 48 years old, with a debutante time of 6:37:30 in Sunday's London Marathon, I note in today's report that I had a later arrival — by 5 minutes 54 seconds — than that of 89-year-old Mr Abraham Weintraub.

It may be worth noting that my supporters, having cheered me past the Tower of London, raced to Blackfriars via the Tube... only to discover that I had already limped past and had arrived at Temple Station.

Perhaps an unfair comparison, as surely the District Line is older than Mr Weintraub?



COURT CIRCULAR

HYATT HOTEL, SEOUL
March 20: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited the Daewoo Design Forum and met engineers from the Daewoo technical centre in Worthing, UK.

Her Majesty subsequently visited Ani Animation Studio and later, with The Duke of Edinburgh, met Korean and British business leaders at the Hyatt Hotel.

The Queen this afternoon visited Ewha Women's University, and called at calligraphy, pottery and hanbok shops in Insadong.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended a State Dinner given by The President and First Lady at the Blue House.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited Daryung Electronics and Jungsoo Polytechnic College.

His Royal Highness hosted a lunch for Korean and British business leaders at the Hyatt Hotel and began his inspection of construction work at the World Cup Football Stadium and the Kayang Bridge, and visited the LG Corporate Institute of Technology.

The Lord Faringdon, Lord in Waiting, was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning upon the Arrival of President McAleese and welcomed The President of Ireland on behalf of The Queen.

Birthdays today

The Queen celebrates her 73rd birthday today.

Mrs Angela Barren, tennis champion; 67; Professor Gerald Benney, goldsmith; 69; Mr I.W. Bruce, director-general, RNIB; 54; Sir George Burton, farmer chairman, Fisons; 83; Mr Laurence Ellis, farmer, Retford, Nottinghamshire; 67; Ms Cheryl Gillan, MP, Shadow Foreign and Commonwealth Minister; 47; Mr Robin Gourlay, chairman, Anglo-Water; 60; Mr J.M. Greenwood, former senior partner, Nabarro Nathanson; 64; Air Marshal Sir John Hunter-Tod; 82; Sir Robin Lobb, former chairman, Lloyds TSB Group; 73; Mr John McCabe, concert pianist; 60; Mrs Christina Maher, founder and director, Plain English Campaign; 61; Dr Halfdan Mahler, former secretary-general, International Planned Parenthood Federation; 76; Sir John Mortimer, QC, barrister and author; 76; Sir Michael Oswald, director, Royal Studs; 68; Sir Geoffrey Palmer, former Prime Minister of New Zealand; 57; Mr Anthony Quinn, actor; 84; Major-General Sir John Swinton, Lord-Lieutenant of Berwickshire; 74; the Earl of Verulam; 48.

Lecture

Coningsby Club
Mr Peter Lilley, Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party, delivered the R.A. Butler lecture last night at the Coningsby Club. Mr Jeremy Quin, chairman of the club, presided. The Officers and Committee were the hosts.

Service dinner

HMS Victory

Admiral Sir John Brigstocke, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, and Lady Brigstocke, were the hosts at a dinner held last night in HMS Victory.

Among those present were: The Bishop of Portsmouth and Mrs Stevenson; Admiral Sir Richard and Lady Northey; Admiral Sir Alan Wilson, Chairman of the NELC; and Mrs Brigadier-General Sir Peter Nicholson, KCB, KBE and Mrs Tony Norman and Mrs Sue Cohn.

CLARENCE HOUSE
April 20: Mrs Michael Gordon Lennox has succeeded the Hon Mrs Rhodes at Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 20: The Prince of Wales, Patron of The Abbeyfield Society, visited the Abbeyfield home at Leamington.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

March 20: The Prince Edward,

Chairman, International Council of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, held a lunch in support of the Gold Millennium Encounter, a joint venture between The Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the President's Award - Gallois, which was attended by President McAleese, President of Ireland, at St James's Palace.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 20: The Princess Royal this evening attended the Military Knights of Windsor Dinner at Windsor Castle.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 20: The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, Construction Industry Trust for Youth (CITY), this evening attended a piano recital, Drapers' Hall, London.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE RICHMOND PARK

April 20: Princess Alexandra this evening attended a Reception for the Royal National Institute for the Blind at St James's Palace.



Gregory Doran, who will be directing the York mystery plays in 2000, inspects the newly restored "Face of God" window at York Minster. The images in the 550-year-old panels are being used to promote next year's play cycle

School announcements

Birkdale School, Sheffield

Scholarship Awards 1999

Major Scholarships: Oliver Lomas, Birkdale; Parvathy Vis-Nath, Central Newcastle High School for Girls.

Minor Scholarships: Birkdale; Sirkat.

Students: Jason Sas, Meadowhead.

Exhibition: Jason Sas, Meadowhead.

Open Award: Sirkat.

Scholarships: Lee Bradshaw, Sycamore Hill Prep; Antoni Aziz, Birkdale; David Nissenbaum, Birkdale; Alice Townsend, Birkdale.

Prep: The Foundation Awards.

Minor Scholarship: Michael Luo, Nether Green Junior.

Music Scholarship: Lee Wan, Gorsey Primary.

Brentwood School

Trinity Term begins today. The Choral Society will sing Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* at Brentwood Cathedral on May 8. The CCF Open Evening will take place on May 14 in the presence of the Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Essex, J.H.M. Norris, CBE, DL (OB).

Half-Term is from May 28 to June 17. The first Summer Art Exhibition in the new Art, Design and Technology Centre opens June 18.

The Commemoration Service, Speech Day and Promenade Concert will be held on June 26. The Guest of Honour is the Right Hon Dame Angela Rumbold.

Chigwell School

Summer Term begins today and

finishes on Wednesday, July 7.

Speech Day is to be held on Saturday, July 3, 2.30pm onwards.

The Guest of Honour is to Her Majesty's Ambassador to Norway, Richard Dales (Old Chigwellian).

This is followed in the evening by the Summer Ball. The 1st XI Cricket Captain is Head Boy, Sudip Samanta, and the annual

match between the School and the MCC will be played on Wednesday, June 23, starting at 11.30am. 1st XI will also take part in the Magdalen College School, Oxford Cricket Festival held between Sunday, July 11 and Tuesday, July 13.

The School Athlone Sports Day takes place on Saturday, June 26.

Musical events include the Scholars Concert on Thursday, April 29, at 7.30pm. The hosting of the prestigious Independent Association of Preparatory Schools Music Festival on Saturday and Sunday, May 15 and 16, 9.00am to 5.00pm.

The Junior School Concert at St Barnabas Church, Woodford Green, on Tuesday, June 22, at 7.30pm and the Outdoor Summer Concert on Thursday, June 7, at the School's Chapel Quad at 7.30pm.

The Sixth Form Play *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf?* will be performed on Wednesday and

Thursday, May 26 and 27, in New Hall. The Craft, Design and Technology Centre's First

"Show" opens from Monday

May 17.

Eton College

Eton College opens today for the Summer Half.

P.N. Morley-Fletcher KS continues as Captain of School and C.P.W. Fielding OS as Captain of the Oppidans.

There will be four performances of

The Rivals in the Farter Theatre

from May 27-30. The CCF Tattoo

will be on June 1, and the Fourth

June celebrations will be held on

Wednesday, June 2. Long Leave is

from June 26-28.

The Winchester Match will be at

Winchester on June 12, the Harrow Match at

Lord's on Tuesday, June 29.

School closes on July 2.

St Hilda's School

Summer Term begins today and

finishes on Wednesday, July 7.

Speech Day is to be held on

Saturday, July 3, 2.30pm onwards.

The Guest of Honour is to Her

Majesty's Ambassador to Norway, Richard Dales (Old Chigwellian).

This is followed in the evening by

the Summer Ball. The 1st XI Cricket Captain is Head Boy, Sudip Samanta, and the annual

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Green, on Tuesday, June 22, at

7.30pm and the Outdoor Summer

Concert on Thursday, June 7, at

the School's Chapel Quad at

7.30pm.

Anniversaries

Peter Abelard, theologian,

Chalon-sur-Saône, 1142; King

Henry VII, reigned 1485-1509;

Reginald Heber, bishop and

hymn writer, Malpas, Cheshire,

1783; Charlotte Brontë, writer,

Thornton, Yorkshire, 1816; Sir

Herbert Barker, manipulative

surgeon, Southport, 1899; Henry de Montherlant, novelist and

dramatist, Paris, 1924; Robert Bridges, Poet Laureate

1913-30; Chiswell, Kent, 1930;

John Maynard Keynes, Baron

Keynes, economist, Fife, West

Sussex, 1946; Sir Stafford Cripps, statesman, Zurich, 1952; Sir Edward Appleton, physicist, Nobel laureate 1947; Edinburgh, 1965; François Duvalier, President of Haiti 1957-71, Port-au-Prince, 1971.

The Texans defeated Mexico at the Battle of San Jacinto, 1836.

The City of Rome was founded by Romulus, 753 BC.

Brasilia was inaugurated as the new capital of Brazil, 1960.

Chinese students poured into

Tiananmen Square, Beijing, ignoring warnings of severe

punishment, 1989.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

DENNY - Sandy, in loving

memory. Gone but never forgotten. Aged 80 years ago

on Friday, March 12, 1999. She was indeed a good companion. Love Miranda.

BIRTHDAYS

BRUTON - William Michael (Fred), Happy Birthday double figures. Love Max and Paul.

MARSHY - Christopher, Cheltenham, happy 16th birthday, to my very dear daughter, lots of love. Mother xxxx.

Church news

The Rev Robin Griffith-Jones, Chaplain of Lincoln College, Oxford, has been appointed to the

Mastership of the Temple in succession to Canon Joseph Robinson

son who resigned last year.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

GUNNELL - Rachel Mary on April 16th 1999 at

Wentbridge Hospital, General Hospital. Widow of Lieutenant Commander H.W. (Dick) Gunnell who died on April 20th.

She was a much loved mother of Nicholas and Christopher and grandmother of Peter and

Charlotte. Also died on April 20th.

Donations if desired to The Development Fund St Catherine's College, Cambridge, 1st floor, 100 Jesus Lane, Cambridge, CB3 9EE.

Funeral Directors, Mullan, near Halestone, Cornwall, Tel: 01326 232122.

OBI

Dame Kathleen Raven, DBE, former Chief Nursing Officer of the United Kingdom, died on April 19 aged 88. She was born on November 9, 1910.

Kathleen Raven was born in the year that Florence Nightingale died, and it is as a nurse and reformer in the Nightingale tradition that she will be remembered. Like the Lady of the Lamp, she had an affectionate nickname: to the doctors she worked with at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London during the war, she was the Pocket Battalion — a reference to her lack of inches and to her fearlessness in pursuing high standards of patient care.

Her achievements as the UK's Chief Nursing Officer from 1958 to 1972, including the introduction of intensive care, can be attributed to the engaging mixture of energy, determination, charm and humour that first buoyed her up in the dark days of war.

An only daughter who was very close to her three brothers, Kathleen Annie Ingram Raven grew up in the Lake District, skating, fishing, playing hockey and winning school prizes. Educated at Ulverston Grammar School and privately, she originally wanted to be an architect, but she began to see nursing as an attractive option when her eldest brother Ronald (later a distinguished surgeon) was studying medicine at Bart's. She too trained there and, like her brother, won a scholarship — in her case, in midwifery.

The medical world was then still remarkably primitive. As late as the 1930s, she was called upon to apply leeches as a cure for pneumonia; a strange operation, she said, calling for all the qualities that

a good nurse should possess, "skillful hands, a good head and a stout heart, and imagination to apply these little black creatures to the patient's chest to relieve the congestion of the lungs, without the patient seeing what was happening." The poverty of her patients of those days was startling. As a midwife in 1937, she regularly delivered babies onto newspapers for families in the Caledonian and City Roads.

She said later that it was during the early years of the war, as a young ward sister at Bart's, that she "learned to deal with sorrow and death and how to 'manage' grieving, heartbroken relatives, sometimes their families wiped out and their homes razed to the ground." On one awful night, when 7,000 Londoners were killed and a further 9,000 were injured, Bart's itself was hit and Raven was blown across the casualty ward by a blast that shattered all the windows. It never entered her head, she said, that she might be killed. "We were all so busy looking after the casualties that we did not have much time to think about ourselves." For two years, her bed was an air mattress on the first floor of the ward block.

Raven left Bart's to become matron at the General Infirmary, Leeds, in 1949, where in the early years of the NHS she introduced many improvements, notably establishing an assistant nurse training school. She also instituted "beaux parlours" places where nurses could meet their men friends, which she based on American examples observed in 1953 during a 13-week tour to study nursing methods in the United States, Canada and South America. This led to an increase in nurses leaving the profession on marriage, at least nurse



Kathleen Raven as Chief Nursing Officer in 1959. She was instrumental in introducing intensive care to British hospitals

recruitment was never a major problem at Leeds while Raven was at the helm — her stirring visits to local schools saw to that. She was a member of the General Nursing Council of England and Wales from 1950 to 1957.

She was appointed Deputy Chief Nursing Officer at the Ministry of Health in 1957, and promoted to the top job in British nursing within a year. She retained this post for more than 14 years, working with a succession of ministers of

varying political persuasions. She was instrumental in setting up the Salmon committee on the structure of the nursing management. She set up a Hospital Planning Unit and instituted studies on the training of health visitors and on

the ratio of patients to nurses. Her visits to hospitals in the United States led directly to the introduction of intensive care units in Britain in 1961. She had admired the American hospitals' policy of Progressive Patient Care, which

segregated patients according to their needs, and she campaigned strongly for its adoption in Britain. "It had become abundantly clear to me, and to others, that we could no longer sustain having 15 or 20 patients needing this care scattered in 15 different places over a large hospital," she said.

Two years after joining the Ministry of Health, she married Professor John Thornton Ingram, who created the Dermatological Department at Leeds before accepting the first chair in dermatology at Newcastle. "Nurses and doctors must always work together," she said, "sometimes, as the best doctors will admit, the nurse leading the doctor, even at times leading him to the altar."

Nurse training was always among Raven's preoccupations and she was unhappy with a system that had created two classes of nurse, the state-registered nurse, who could train and make her way up the career ladder, and the state-enrolled nurse, who could not. Disenchanted state-enrolled nurses were leaving the profession. So in 1970 Raven persuaded the Health Secretary, Richard Crossman, to set up what became known as the Briggs committee on nurse training, chaired by Professor Asa Briggs (later Lord Briggs).

The Briggs report, published in 1972, recommended a new career structure, with state-enrolled nurses on the first tier but able to train for the second tier and beyond. Raven was enthusiastic about this, but 1972 was the year of her retirement, and it was one of the great disappointments of her life that the recommendations were not implemented.

A more personal sadness came when her husband died just six months after her retirement. But Raven, who was appointed DBE in 1968. She had no children.

remained active. She became a vice-president of the Royal College of Nursing in 1972, and was also a Civil Service commissioner. From 1972 to 1986 she was part of a team setting up hospitals in the Middle East, staffed and managed on traditional British lines. In 1986, she received the Freedom of the City of London.

Raven lamented the end, in 1988, of nurses' onward apprenticeships and the greater concentration on academic training. She feared that computers, rather than patients, were increasingly the focus of attention, and that clipboards, not the sick, were being clasped to the bosom. "Have we forgotten the magic of touch or the importance of a nurse's hands?" she asked. "The new system is not working. Young enthusiastic nurses, anxious to nurse in its fullest sense, must be taught the emotional part of nursing by example and feel by experience."

So strongly did she feel that, in 1997, at the age of 86, she endowed the Kathleen Raven Chair in Clinical Nursing at the University of Leeds, with the aim of restoring to the profession the old-fashioned system of teaching by example, alongside patients. Dr Claire Hale took up the chair in September 1998, and shortly afterwards Raven brought together a group of distinguished nursing and medical people to look afresh into the subject of nurse training. Sadly she was able to attend only one meeting before going into hospital herself.

A lively hostess who thought nothing of cooking ham for 40, Kathleen Raven was a lively character, but always dignified. Painting was a great hobby, along with friendship. Last year, aged 88, she hand-wrote 250 Christmas cards. She had no children.

ADOLFO BIOY CASARES

Adolfo Bioy Casares, Argentine writer, died in Buenos Aires on March 8 aged 84. He was born on September 15, 1914.

THE death of Adolfo Bioy Casares brings to a close the extraordinary period of literary renewal in Argentina that began in the 1940s. He will no doubt be remembered, somewhat unfairly, as the close friend and collaborator of Jorge Luis Borges, with whom he conducted the ceaseless intellectual conversation that shaped their mutual oeuvre.

Together, and with help from Bioy Casares's wife, Silvina Ocampo, they edited the *Antología de Literatura Fantástica*, (1940). *The Book of Fantasy* (1988), which began a trend for mixing fiction and reality, and was a marked influence on the somewhat misnamed "magic realism" of Julio Cortázar and Gabriel García Márquez.

But their association went beyond this. The two were passionate readers of detective novels, and together — under the pseudonym H. Bustos



Domecq — they wrote bawdy short stories about an armchair detective capable of solving mysteries from an isolation prison cell. Their composite name was to become visible as a trademark among modern Latin American fabulists such as Alcina Lubich Domecq.

Borges inserted Bioy Casares as a character in his famous story *Tlon, Úqbar, Orbis Tertius*. It is he, according to Borges, who uttered the famous sentence: "Mirrors and copulation are abominable, because they increase the

number of men." It was a tribute, of course, and also a misrepresentation, for Bioy Casares was well known for his passion for women. In a later interview, he said that when sex is performed out of love it is beautiful, but so is it when love is absent.

In turn, Bioy Casares paid

homage to Borges in a variety of ways. His reminiscence appears in *The Oxford Book of Latin American Essays* (1998). But Borges's brightness resulted in the overshadowing of Bioy Casares's talents. He was a prolific, endearing writer in his own right, responsible for classics such as the 1940 novel *La invención de Morel* (tr. *The Invention of Morel* in 1961), a book inspired by H.G. Wells's *The Island of Doctor Moreau*.

Born in 1914, Bioy Casares came from a well-to-do family. He began his literary career at the age of eleven with a novel called *Iris y Margarita*. But later on he disclaimed this and all his adolescent experiments, describing them as too flaccid. In his youth he studied law and then switched to philosophy.

Apparently it was Borges, whom he met in 1935, who persuaded him to move on to literature, where he found his true calling. His most famous works include *Diario de la Guerra del Cerdo* (1969, tr. *Diary of the War of the Pig*, 1972), *Sueno de los Heroes* (1954, tr. *Dream of the Hero*, 1987) and *Aventuras de un fotógrafo en Le Plata* (1989, tr. *Adventures of a Photographer in La Plata*, 1991).

His favourite themes were love and what Borges called games with time. But Bioy Casares infused them with irony and an existential mood that is reminiscent of Albert Camus and Jean-Paul Sartre.

He married Silvina Ocampo in 1944. She was the sister of Victoria Ocampo, famous as the matron of Argentine letters and editor of the magazine *Sur*.

She died in 1993. They had a single daughter, who died in a road accident before her mother. Bioy Casares was awarded the Cervantes Prize, the most prestigious literary award in the Hispanic world, in 1990.

Norman Williams, lawyer and philatelist, died on April 9 aged 85. He was born in London on March 25, 1914.

THE NAME Norman Williams was a byword for thoroughness and accuracy in the two fields where he made his mark, philately and the law, in a working life which continued well into his ninth decade. Leon Norman Williams was 20 when he first contributed on stamps to philatelic journals and the daily press. In those days he wrote jointly with his elder brother, Maurice, and together they wrote thousands of articles and more than thirty books, as well as editing journals, lecturing and broadcasting on radio and television.

Their first book was *Propaganda Forgeries: A History and Description of the Austrian, Bavarian and German Stamps Counterfeited by Order of the British Government During the Great War*, published in 1938, and its successors included *Famous Stamps* (1940), *The Postage Stamp* (1956) — a Penguin book which was translated into several languages including Japanese and Russian, and *Rare Stamps* (1967).

But the work for which Williams will be best remembered is *Fundamentals of Philately*, the most comprehensive yet written about stamp design and production, which is recognised as the classic in its field. The book began as a series of articles in *The American Philatelist* in 1954; these were collected together in 1971, and a revised edition appeared in 1990.

His final work was the *Encyclopaedia of Rare and Famous Stamps*, dedicated to his brother, who died in 1976, and published in two parts in 1993 and 1997. It detailed the history and ownership of such famous stamps as the Post Office Mauritius, the Hawaii Missionaries and the Cape Town Convention.



Williams: well-known to both philatelists and lawyers

of Good Hope triangulars. Norman Williams's work in philately was recognised with many honours: he was a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London; an honorary life member of the National Philatelic Society; a founder member and vice-chairman of the Philatelic Writers' Society; and a founder member and president of the Cinderella Stamp Club, which deals with stamps and labels outside the mainstream of those issued by national post offices. It was the study and pursuit of information about these "Cinderellas" that gave him the greatest challenge and the greatest pleasure.

He was a life member of the American Philatelic Society, which presented him with the John N. Luff Award for outstanding services to philately. He also received awards at philatelic exhibitions throughout the world.

While Maurice Williams had worked full time in philately, Norman Williams was called to the Bar in *absentia* in 1943 during his war service in West Africa with the Royal Artillery, when he rose to the rank of captain. After the war he practised in the chambers of J. E. S. Simon, QC (later Lord Simon of Glaisdale) but early in the 1960s he switched to law reporting, and became a fixture in Court 4, the Lord Chief Justice's Court, at the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand.

There he sat, just to one side of the gangway, listening and writing, a subtle frown or gesture sometimes querying the words delivered from the Bench.

He had joined the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting in 1962 and began to contribute to the Law Reports in *The Times*. He went on to work under five Chief Justices — the Lords Parker, Widgery, Lane, Taylor and Bingham — the first of whom encouraged him to launch the Road Traffic Reports in 1970. Williams was particularly touched when Lord Lane returned to sit amid a panoply of judges as Lord Bingham delivered a rare valediction on Williams's retirement in 1997.

Of the many cases that he had reported, one stood out: the libel action brought by Dr Wladislaw Dering against Leon Uris, the author of *Exodus*, in 1964. The case, which commanded national and international attention, concerned Nazi brutalities in the concentration camp at Auschwitz, and the daily law reports in *The Times* by Williams and a fellow reporter, Mavis Hill, often ran to two full columns. The reports were adapted into the book *Auschwitz in England*, with a foreword by Lord Denning, and until recently *Dering v Uris* was the only war crimes trial in Britain.

Williams was a devoted family man, proud of his Jewish heritage, and a keen follower of sport. A useful athlete and club cricketer in his younger days, he was tickled by his appearance on the front page of *The Times* in June 1996, with his wife, Denise, sitting in the pavilion at Lord's on the first occasion that women were permitted to view play from those seats.

He is survived by his wife, whom he married in 1943, and two sons, one of whom is also associated with *The Times*, as a senior member of the sports department.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

STATUTORY DEMAND
TO THE DIRECTOR OF
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FBI, WASHINGTON, D.C.
RE: NOTICE THAT a Statutory Demand has been issued by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D.C., dated April 15, 1999, to the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, Washington, D.C., to show cause why the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, Washington, D.C., should not be compelled to appear before the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C., on May 11, 1999, at 10:00 a.m., to answer a complaint filed by the United States of America, in the above-captioned case, and to show cause why the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, Washington, D.C., should not be compelled to appear before the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C., on May 11, 1999, at 10:00 a.m., to answer a complaint filed by the United States of America, in the above-captioned case, and to show cause why the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, Washington, D.C., should not 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THE TIMES

Surprise leaders in the science rankings

Honours are spread widely in the latest league tables, says John O'Leary

The eight tables below, covering science and technology, complete the new subject rankings compiled this year. Seven universities head the tables, illustrating the breadth of excellence in the British higher education system. Neither Oxford nor Cambridge tops more than one table, a feat achieved only by Nottingham University.

As with the tables for arts and social sciences, published yesterday, the rankings are produced by combining official teaching and research assessments with average entry qualifications. The teaching quality rating is weighted 2.5, research 1.5 and A-level points one.

Though engineering assessments are now virtually complete, mathematics and some science subjects, including physics, are still to be fully assessed in England.

The seven science and engineering tables published last year have changed little because the teaching and research assessments will not be updated until after the millennium. They do show greater domination by Oxford and Cambridge, although Bath and East Anglia remain leaders in their fields.

Oxford and Cambridge are locked together at the head of the geology table, with top ratings for both teaching and research. Plymouth represents the new universities in the top ten, while Newcastle is the nearest challenger to the ancient universities.

Chemistry sees the same dead heat for top place: Oxford and Cam-

bridge are again the only universities with maximum points for research. Imperial College London and Bristol fill the next positions.

Cambridge heads two other tables, although both are narrow victories. In computing, the top six universities all have excellent ratings for teaching and a five-star grade for research, but Cambridge's unusually high entrance qualifications win the day. Warwick is second and York third. The same applies in geography, where the top four are all rated excellent for teaching and have the best possible score for research. Bristol, Durham and University College London are Cambridge's closest rivals.

East Anglia has an even narrower lead in the environmental science table, squeezing out Reading with fractionally better A-level entrance grades. Both have maximum scores for teaching and research.

The two previous engineering tables are also closely contested. Bath remains just ahead of Sheffield because of a five-star research grade, with both universities rated excellent for teaching. Imperial College London is top for chemical engineering for the same reason, although Cambridge achieved the better rating for teaching quality.

■ Warwick University was omitted from Monday's applications table. A 12 per cent increase this year should have put it in fourth place. The decline in applications to King's College London was exaggerated in the compilation of the statistics by admissions officials, and should have been 4.4 per cent.



Rebecca Holland, award-winning chemistry student from Bristol

IN THE GUIDE TOMORROW

Oxford and Cambridge — what admissions tutors are looking for, and how to choose between colleges

EIGHT NEW SUBJECT TABLES FOR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY

18 London Guildhall	59.30
19 Manchester Metro	59.05
20 Brunel	56.19

■ Competition was intense for the leading places. Eight universities had five-star ratings for research, and they did not include Imperial College London, the only institution to win maximum points for teaching quality. Oxford's all-round performance, with the highest entry qualifications, the maximum score for research and 23 out of 24 for teaching, won the day. Cambridge was only a fraction behind.

The ranking is dominated by the traditional universities, with only Sheffield Hallam, London Guildhall and Manchester Metropolitan making the top 20 from the former polytechnics. The subject has not been assessed in Scotland, but Swansea carries the flag for Wales in fifth place.

Assessors found that employment prospects were "excellent", although drop-out rates were high in some universities. The main problem they identified was the recruitment of well-qualified applicants. Only five universities' entrants had the equivalent of three Cs at A level. Teaching standards and the general quality of classroom activities were considered high.

1 Oxford 95.83
2 Cambridge 94.79
3 Imperial 93.35
4 Sheffield 84.47
5 Swansea 80.71
6 Liverpool 80.00
7 Manchester 77.78
8 UMIST 75.35
9 Birmingham 74.44
10 Nottingham 72.12
11 Loughborough 69.92
12 Bath 69.54
13 Surrey 69.16
14 Exeter 67.66
15 Queen Mary Coll. 65.28
16 Leeds 64.47
17 Sheffield Hallam 62.22

FOOD SCIENCE

■ Nottingham is a comfortable winner in the first ranking of food science, which contains only a dozen universities. Three quarters of the institutions offering the subject are

former polytechnics, but the table is dominated by four traditional universities.

Only two universities reached the top of the research assessment ladder, and Nottingham entered far more academics than Leeds, the other five-star performer. Nottingham's entrants averaged a modest 15 points at A level (fewer than two Cs and a D), but its 23 points out of 24 were top for teaching quality.

Successful students' job prospects are good, according to the overview published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

1 Nottingham 95.40
2 Reading 84.58
3 Leeds 75.93
4 Queens Belfast 71.21
5 Oxford Brookes 64.03
6 North London 55.21
7 Huddersfield 50.23
8 Teesside 46.80
9 Bournemouth 46.65
10 Lincs & Hum'side 46.17
11 Manchester Metro 42.54
12 South Bank 41.21

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

■ Points for teaching quality were hard won in civil engineering. While three universities reached the top rank of the last research assessment, 22 out of 24 was the most that was awarded for teaching in England and no Scottish university was rated excellent.

Only Cardiff and Swansea reached the top grade for teaching. Swansea also had a five-star research rating, but low entry grades relegated it to sixth, while Cardiff has to settle for fourth.

Bristol's all-round performance secured top place, with Imperial College London, another of the five-star research departments, second. Newcastle was the other top-rated research university, but

its teaching and A-level scores pulled it down to eleventh. Greenwich is the only new university to feature in the top 20.

1 Bristol 93.13
2 Imperial 90.91
3 UCL 90.69
4 Cardiff 89.84
5 Nottingham 89.11
6 Swanso 85.51
7 Bath 84.94
8 Sheffield 80.94
9 Queens Belfast 79.96
10 Edinburgh 79.65
11 Newcastle 79.11
12 Liverpool 78.82
13 Surrey 78.66
14 UMIST 77.97
15 Loughborough 76.42
16 Heriot-Wan 74.38
17 Birmingham 72.31
18 Dundee 71.96
19 Greenwich 71.28
20 Southampton 71.24

GENERAL ENGINEERING

■ Though not one of the two universities with perfect teaching quality grades, Imperial College's high entrance scores and top rating for research secured top place in this specialised engineering field.

The ranking includes some universities that chose to have their mechanical engineering degrees assessed in this category, but Imperial's four-year MSc courses are mainly aeronautical. Second-placed Bath has aeronautical, manufacturing and mechanical engineering degrees. Nottingham, third, and Kingston, fifteenth, are the two top-rated universities for teaching quality.

Aston University is yet to be inspected and Scottish universities do not have a separate teaching assessment for the subjects. But the overview for England reported a 95 per cent completion rate, with most graduates securing relevant

employment. However, the assessors found that a "significant proportion" of entrants need extra mathematics coaching to cope with their course.

They also saw scope for more industrial involvement in many programmes.

1 Imperial 88.44
2 Bath 87.69
3 Nottingham 86.41
4 UMIST 83.59
5 Loughborough 82.07
6 UCL 80.12
7 Bristol 79.21
8 Southampton 78.59
9 Cardiff 75.30
10 Cranfield 75.00
11 Queens Belfast 74.58
12 Liverpool 69.20
13 Manchester 65.45
14 Birmingham 62.15
15 Kingston 60.33
16 Brunel 59.69
17 Central England 55.95
18 London, Kings 55.20
19 Queen Mary Coll. 54.33
20 Anglia 54.23

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

■ Sheffield, Southampton and Edinburgh are the star players for Electrical & Electronic Engineering — each achieving perfect scores for teaching and research in what is a highly competitive field.

Imperial, Bristol, York, Birmingham, Queens, Strathclyde, Essex, Cardiff, Heriot-Watt and Hull all gain maximum results for their teaching. UCL and Surrey excel in research.

Across the board, standards are high, with none of the 20 universities that offer the course falling below an overall score of 70 and the top seven each achieving more than 90.

Disturbingly, completion rates are a problem on several courses, in some cases falling to 40 per cent. Many of the assessors' reports express concern at relatively high failure rates in the first two years of undergraduate programmes — a statistic that they attribute to difficulties in acquiring the requisite mathematical skills.

However, of those who do stay the course, six months after graduation about 80 per cent have entered employment or embarked on further studies and employers express a high level of satisfaction with the skills of graduates.

1 Sheffield 98.08
2 Southampton 96.18
3 Edinburgh 91.47
4 UCL 91.44
5 Imperial 91.18
6 Bristol 91.09
7 Surrey 90.83
8 York 87.16
9 Birmingham 85.75
10 Queens Belfast 85.71

Let the workplace come to the class

Last week David Blunkett urged all universities to demand that their students gain work experience ahead of graduation. The proposal is intended to placate employers who have long complained that graduates lack workplace aptitude, from basic communication skills to operating a photocopier.

Students would be wise to heed Mr Blunkett's call. A recent survey by the Institute for Employment Research at the University of Warwick found that half the graduates surveyed reported that relevant work experience was a crucial factor in enabling them to find employment.

Sixty per cent of arts and humanities, modern languages and natural sciences graduates attributed problems finding work to lack of practical experience.

Some universities are ahead of Mr Blunkett. Nottingham in effect invites workplaces into the university to encourage the emergence of entrepreneurs. Every year 100 of its science and technology students work in teams to devise business strategies for an imaginary biotechnology project that is raking in the cash. Teaching is provided by people who deal with such companies for a living — business executives, patent lawyers and accountancy firms. Marks are awarded by a team of assessors from inside and outside the university.

Professor John Peberdy came up with the idea for the course in 1991. "I realised there was a gap between science as we taught it at university and how it becomes real in terms of products in the marketplace," he explains. "We aim to enhance students' employability — teaching them to be resourceful, self-reliant, innovative and imaginative."

Other universities send their students out into the working world. De Montfort University's business studies course has been arranging 12-month industrial placements for undergraduates for more than 20 years, which generates heavy demand from canny sixth-formers. At any one time, 150 students are out on placement, earning, on average, between £7,000 and £10,000. So successful is the scheme that

Innovative schemes are being devised on and off campus to give real-world experience to students, reports Hannah Betts

companies such as Marks & Spencer have integrated De Montfort's sandwich year within their own strategies of graduate recruitment.

Penny Robb, the placement officer, says: "Before they go off, the students are pretty green around the gills. By the time they return, they have matured."

The Department for Education and Employment is also sponsoring projects at selected universities around England. The North East Work Experience Project is the responsibility of Newcastle and Northumbria universities. Manchester and UMIST run the Work Experience Bank. Business Bridge is a scheme shared between Liverpool's universities, while a project called Improving the Quality of Work Experience in Higher Education finds its home at the University of Wolverhampton. The universities of Plymouth and Exeter have conspired to produce the Jewels scheme, which provides advice on everything from sandwich courses to burger bar jobs.

Even if students are not fortunate enough to be able to benefit from one of these schemes, there are other routes they can follow.

The Shell Technology Enterprise Programme (Step) is open to second-year undergraduates at every university. The scheme was started 12 years ago and 1,500 students now pass through its programme of eight weeks with a small to medium-size enterprise every year. Pay is £130 a week, tax-free.

Twenty-one-year-old Rebecca Holland is a chemistry finalist at Bristol who won last year's award

for Step's most enterprising student.

Ms Holland had previously spent vacations working in a shoe shop, but she decided last summer to do something more demanding. The Step programme took her to Shipley Europe Ltd, where she discovered that there was a cheaper, more environmentally sensitive alternative to using chromic acid for plating metal into plastic, which will lead to savings of up to £30,000 for the company.

"One of the best things about working was that people respected your point of view," she said. "At a university you're never in a position to know as much as your tutors. But in the workplace, you may know more than the company does. One graduate can make a real impact, which does amazing things for your confidence."

Ninety per cent of Step students find employment soon after graduating. Ms Holland is no exception and will join Nestle's very competitive graduate programme after her finals.

"I was so much more confident in my approach to gaining employment," she recalls. "I was no longer in awe of workplaces." When interviewers asked her to give an example of a situation in which she had improved the cost-effectiveness of a company, she was able to give an answer that far outstripped the usual "when I ran the college sports team" responses.

Ms Holland would recommend the Step scheme and others like it to all students — particularly because she found it enjoyable. "I needed to earn money over the summer," she said. "and I wanted to increase my employability. But I had no idea how much fun it would turn out to be."

■ Working Out? Graduates' early experiences of the labour market, by Kate Purcell, Jane Pircher and Clare Simm, price £40, is available from the Higher Education Careers Services Unit, Booth St East, Manchester M13 9EP. Step hotline 01623 469 030; or www.shell-step.org.uk

Decades' estate

Scots law report
Refusing dis

assessors found that a "significant proportion" of entrants need extra mathematics coaching to cope with their course.

They also saw scope for more industrial involvement in many programmes.

1 Imperial 88.44
2 Bath 87.69
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14 Birmingham 62.15
15 Kingston 60.33
16 Brunel 59.69
17 Central England 55.95
18 London, Kings 55.20
19 Queen Mary Coll. 54.33
20 Anglia 54.23

GENERAL ENGINEERING

■ Less than half an A-level point separates Oxford and Cambridge at the head of the general engineering table. Both achieved near-perfect teaching quality ratings and the maximum score for research.

The two ancient universities had the only top-rated research departments, but third-placed Imperial College London and Southampton, in fifth, matched them for teaching quality. Liverpool John Moores is the top-rated new university, but Hertfordshire and Central Lancashire are also in the top 20.

Assessors in England found room for improvement in teaching in all but two of the universities and colleges they inspected. The area includes

Teaching in the area is yet to be assessed in Scotland, and it is possible that Edinburgh will take top place when it is. Its students have the best entry qualifications in Britain and it is almost the equal of Nottingham for research.

For now, however, Edinburgh has to settle for third place behind Newcastle. Plymouth registered the best teaching assessment of the new universities, but a disastrous research grade left the university trailing both Bournemouth and Lincolnshire & Humberside.

Assessors in England found room for improvement in teaching in all but two of the universities and colleges they inspected. The area includes

subjects such as floristry, horse studies and even golf-course management, as well as the traditional degrees in agriculture and forestry. Most courses offer work placements and employment prospects for graduates are good.

1 Nottingham 92.98
2 Newcastle 85.54
3 Edinburgh 83.82
4 Aberdeen 77.30
5 Reading 76.81
6 Cranfield 74.64
7 Leeds 70.21
8 Queens Belfast 66.25
9 Lincs & Hum'side 65.52
10 Bournemouth 63.85
11 Plymouth 58.25
12 Bangor 54.83
13 Aberystwyth 45.19
14 De Montfort 40.88

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THE BOOK FEATURES:

Refusal to quash prosecution lawful

Regina v Director of Public Prosecutions, Ex parte Duckenfield and Another

Regina v South Yorkshire Police Authority and Another, Ex parte Chief Constable of South Yorkshire and Others

Before Lord Justice Laws, Mr Justice Cresswell and Mr Justice Latham

[Judgment March 31]

The decision of the Director of Public Prosecutions not to exercise his power to take over a private prosecution against two police officers in order to discontinue it was not unlawful.

A police authority's powers were not limited to those specifically conferred upon it, since it was empowered to do anything which reasonably supported the general function conferred by section 6(1) of the Police Act 1996, namely to "secure the maintenance of efficient and effective police force for its area".

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, when:

1 Dismissing in part application by David Godfrey Duckenfield, retired police officer, for judicial review of the decision of the DPP in a letter of December 18, 1998, not to take over private prosecutions commenced against him by Ann Adlington, solicitor, for the purposes of discontinuing those proceedings;

2 Allowing applications by the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire and the two applicants for judicial review of the decision of the South Yorkshire Police Authority on February 5, 1999 that it had no legal power to provide financial assistance to the former officers in respect of the costs and expenses of defending the private prosecutions or bringing judicial review proceedings against the DPP.

Mr Duckenfield and Mr Murray were senior police officers on duty at Hillsborough Football Ground on April 15, 1998 when 96 people were killed as a result of overcrowding. In 1990 and 1997 the DPP decided that there was insufficient evidence to prosecute any of the police officers involved in the disaster.

In 1998, anticipating the bringing of private prosecutions against the two officers in respect of their actions on the day of the disaster, the South Yorkshire Police Authority granted their applications for fi-

nancial assistance to defend the prosecutions.

Private prosecutions were begun against the officers in July 1998, both being charged with manslaughter and wilful neglect to perform a public duty, and Mr Duckenfield alone being charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Both officers made representations to the DPP that he should exercise his power under section 6(2) of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 to take over the conduct of the proceedings and then discontinued them under section 23(3) of that Act, but the DPP refused to do so.

Subsequently, in February 1999, the police authority decided that it had no power to provide financial assistance to the officers for the purposes of defending the private prosecutions or seeking judicial review of the DPP's decision.

Mr Michael Harrison, QC and Mr Simon Myerson for the police officers; Mr Philip Hauser, QC for the DPP; Mr Alan Jones, QC and Mr James Lewis for Ms Adlington; Mr Nigel Baker, QC and Ms Louise Varry for the chief constable; Ms Presiley Baxendale, QC and Mr Mark Shaw for the police authority.

MR JUSTICE LAWS said that there were two linked applications: the challenge to the DPP's decision not to take over and discontinue the private prosecutions, and the challenge to the decision of the police authority that it did not have the power to provide legal funding for the officers.

The reasons for the DPP's decision had been given in a letter which also set out the DPP's policy on discontinuing private prosecutions. Mr Harrison had made six submissions:

1 Since under section 32(2)(b) of the 1985 Act, as amended by section 15 of and paragraph 13 of Schedule 2 to the Criminal Justice Act 1987, it was ordinarily the DPP's duty to institute proceedings in cases of importance or difficulty, the DPP should entertain a heightened concern when considering whether or not to take over a private prosecution of that kind, and lean in favour of discontinuance, which he had not done.

In his Lordship's judgment, the right of private prosecution preserved by section 6(1) was in no way qualified by section 32(2)(b).

His Lordship rejected that argu-

ment, holding that the policy was perfectly consistent with the objects of the 1985 Act, and that it was strongly arguable that the test contemplated for by the applicants would place an illegitimate constraint upon the right of private prosecu-

tions.

In his Lordship's judgment, the DPP's policy was not unlawful, nor had it been unlawfully applied.

Finally, it was argued that the DPP had been wrong to let the charge of attempting to pervert the course of justice against Mr Duckenfield go ahead having found that there was no case to answer on that charge.

The DPP's reason had been that it was only appropriate to intervene in proceedings in their entirety or not at all, and so he had decided against discontinuing that charge while leaving the others.

His Lordship said that it was ele-

mentary that in criminal cases each count constituted a separate indictment. The correct articulation of the DPP's "no case" test in a multi-count proceeding was that the DPP should consider whether there was clearly no case to answer on each charge.

In deciding that there was no case to answer on that one charge but allowing it to proceed, there had been a breach of Mr Duckenfield's legitimate expectation that the DPP would stop a private prosecution so far as the case went, and that the case was not one which he would himself proceed with. That would be an *emasculation* of section 6(1) and itself an unlawful policy.

The applicants submitted that the evidential test applied by the DPP, that he would intervene where there was clearly no case to answer, was too rigid.

4 The applicants submitted that the evidential test applied by the DPP that he would intervene where there was clearly no case to answer, was too rigid.

5 It was submitted that the public interest test applied by the DPP was wrong, and should be whether the public interest factors in favour of the private prosecution outweighed those against rather than the other way around.

His Lordship rejected that argu-

ment, holding that the DPP had no power of

those arguments.

Against the first, she said that section 6(1) conferred no powers of any kind, but did no more than state the Act's policy and objects. All the powers possessed by police authorities were expressly conferred in the Police Act 1996 and by local government legislation.

Against the second, she submitted that section 6(1) could not enable a police authority to do anything that was not ancillary to a power which was elsewhere conferred upon it, and that since section 6(1) conferred no such power,

section 11(1) did not help the au-

thority.

In his Lordship's judgment, Ms Baxendale's argument on section 11(1) was wrong. The scheme of the 1996 Act involved the distribution of responsibilities between the chief constable, the secretary of state, and the police authority.

A consideration of those three interlocking roles led to the conclusion that Parliament could not have intended that the police authority should only be empowered to incur expenditure in support of those duties and ancillary powers specifically conferred upon it.

Section 11(1) must, in that context, allow the police authority to support what its express powers and duties also supported, namely its general function conferred by section 6(1). That was enough to dispense with the applicants' case.

His Lordship said that it was ele-

mentary that in criminal cases each count constituted a separate indictment. The correct articulation of the DPP's "no case" test in a multi-count proceeding was that the DPP should consider whether there was clearly no case to answer on each charge.

In his Lordship's judgment, the DPP was self-standing and had no implications for the general reach of a police authority's functions. In his Lordship's view, section 11(1) enabled a police authority to incur expenditure in support of its general function.

His Lordship said that any decision taken under section 11(1) would be subject to the principles of *Associated Provincial Picture Houses Ltd v Winterwerp Corporation* [1948] 1 KB 223 and *Paidfield v Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food* [1998] AC 997, but the use of section 6(1) to finance police officers' legal expenses in litigation, including defending private prosecutions brought against them and the bringing of judicial review proceedings by them could not in principle be ruled unlawful on those grounds.

Mr Justice Cresswell and Mr Justice Latham agreed.

Solicitors: Windkworth Sher-

wood, London and Walter Morris,

Leeds; Crown Prosecution Service,

Headquarters: Ms Ann Adlington,

Liverpool; Hammond Suddards,

Leeds; Garrets, Leeds.

No power to enforce witness confrontation

Regina v Jones (Derek)

Regina v Nelson (Gary)

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Mr Justice Aspell and Mr Justice Gray

[Judgment March 26]

There was no power enabling the police to use reasonable force to make a suspect submit to a confrontation with a witness.

Nelson, who was walking in a room nearby, had heard the commotion, including shouting by Jones when he was being made to confront the witness. The inspector in charge and Nelson said, if he did not consent to a confrontation quietly, reasonable force would be used to compel him to do so. Nelson then agreed to be confronted and was identified.

Mr Ian MacDonald, QC, for Jones; Mr Courtney Griffiths for Nelson; Mr Roderick Denyer, QC, for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE BELDAM, deliverer of the judgment of the court, said that a constable had been convicted of the murder of one man and the attempted murder of another. The appellants were convicted of being concerned in that murder and attempted murder.

The prosecution had arranged for an identity parade to take place some 18 months after the event but the appellants had declined to attend on the ground that an identification made so long after the event would have no value.

The inspector in charge decided that the witness should be confronted with the appellants. Jones objected and put a garment over his head and generally refused to cooperate.

Three police officers then used a

degree of physical force to make his face visible, to restrain him and at one point to close his mouth.

There was a continuing struggle throughout the confrontation during which the witness looked through a viewing panel. Those events were recorded on video and were not in dispute.

Nelson, who was walking in a room nearby, had heard the commotion, including shouting by Jones when he was being made to confront the witness. The inspector in charge and Nelson said, if he did not consent to a confrontation quietly, reasonable force would be used to compel him to do so. Nelson then agreed to be confronted and was identified.

Mr Ian MacDonald, QC, for Jones; Mr Courtney Griffiths for Nelson; Mr Roderick Denyer, QC, for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE BELDAM, deliverer of the judgment of the court, said that a constable had been convicted of the murder of one man and the attempted murder of another. The appellants were convicted of being concerned in that murder and attempted murder.

The judge had accepted a submission that it was permissible for the police to use force to bring about the confrontation to ensure that the process was not frustrated and that the *Code* permitted it.

Mr Denyer sought to justify the use of reasonable force by reference to the 1984 *Code* and the *Codes* made thereunder, particularly Code D and Annex C thereto which deal with force.

He also relied on Code C8, Conditions of Detention, which in paragraph C8.9 "Reasonable force may be used if necessary ... (b) to secure compliance with reasonable in-

structions, including instructions given in pursuance of the provisions of a code of practice..."

He then referred to section 117 of the 1984 *Act*, which provided: "Where any provision of this Act—(a) confers a power on a constable; and (b) does not provide that the power may only be exercised with the consent of some person, other than a police officer, the officer may use reasonable force, if necessary, in the exercise of the power."

In their Lordships' view, section 117 was not to be interpreted as giving a right to exercise force whenever the consent of a suspect to a course of action taken under the *Act* by a constable was not received.

Code D with its annexes was made under section 66. There was no express or implied power to authorise a constable to use force in the *Code*.

On the contrary, it was to be presumed that such power was exclusively contained in section 117.

The mere fact that the secretary of state had included in Code C a requirement that reasonable force might be used to secure conditions of detention did not, in their Lordships' view, authorise the use of force, reasonable or otherwise, to bring about a confrontation.

There had been a breach of the *Codes of Practice* in relation to each appellant. It was impossible to say what impact this identification evidence had on the jury, and accordingly, the appeals would be allowed.

Solicitors: Tyndallwoods, Birmingham; Crown Prosecution Service, Bristol.

Facts not decided on appeal

Attorney-General's Reference (No 95 of 1998)

Regina v Hightower

Before Lord Justice Judge, Mr Justice Sachar and Mr Justice Klevan

[Judgment March 8]

Whether a sentence referred to the

Court of Appeal by the Attorney-

General was unduly lenient was a

question which had to be decided

not in the light of what was alleged

but of what was proved or found to

have been established.

The Court of Appeal could not

constitute itself as a court of first instance inquiring into facts which

had not been pursued or proved in

the crown court.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal

Division, so stated in adjourning

an application by the Attorney-

General under section 36 of the

Criminal Justice Act 1988 for leave

to appeal against a sentence as

unduly lenient imposed on Kim Hightower on December 8, 1998, at Chelmsford Crown Court (Judge Rogers) when on a plea of guilty to causing death by dangerous driving he was sentenced to a commu-

nity service order of 240 hours and

disqualified for five years and until

she had passed an extended refresher.

Mr Neil Moore for the Attorney-

General; Miss Lorraine Webb, as-

sisted by the Registrar of Criminal

Appeals, for the offender.

LORD JUSTICE JUDGE said

that the present reference as consti-

tuted put the court in an impossibil-

ity position.

Two issues crucial to the sentenc-

ing decision (i) whether the offend-

er had consumed alcohol before

rather than after the accident took

place and (ii) whether it was the

first place of dangerous driving by

the offender or the culmination of a pro-

cession of incidents of bad driving.

By the time the offender pleaded

guilty some of those issues had

been canvassed at the trial but when counsel for the prosecution outlined the facts to the judge, nothing was said in his opening to suggest

THE TIMES TODAY

WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 1999

NEWS

Nato committed to moral crusade

■ Tony Blair committed Nato to a moral crusade against President Milosevic, insisting that the bombing would continue until the Yugoslav leader had been forced to "step down".

Later it was made clear that the Prime Minister was not announcing a new Nato objective — the overthrow of Mr Milosevic — but he said the defeat of the Yugoslav leader was a moral imperative. On a visit to Nato headquarters Mr Blair said there would be no deals or compromises..... Pages 1, 47

Britain hands over atrocity intelligence

■ Britain is to hand over all the intelligence it has acquired about atrocities in Kosovo to Judge Louise Arbour, prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said it would be the "largest release of intelligence material" authorised by Britain..... Page 1

Hatchet buried

Baroness Thatcher sought to end the longest running feud in British politics by publicly lavishing praise on Sir Edward Heath at a dinner in London. The former Prime Ministers have hardly exchanged a word since 1975 when Lady Thatcher succeeded Sir Edward as Tory leader..... Page 1

School shooting

Two men in black trench coats and masks walked into Washington high school and opened fire indiscriminately. Several children were carried from Columbine High School covered in blood but amid chaotic scenes it was uncertain if anybody had been killed..... Page 1

Thatcher abandoned

William Hague tried to face down a Shadow Cabinet revolt by staking his authority on the abandonment of Thatcherite ideals of reforming the health, education and welfare systems..... Page 16

Early child

The skeleton of a four-year-old child who died 24,500 years ago reveals that Neanderthals and man interbred, says an American palaeontologist..... Page 17

Night raiders

Raiding the biscuit tin in the middle of the night is not greed but a symptom of a dangerous illness, Albert Stunkard, a professor of psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania, told a London conference. "Night eating syndrome" should be classified with anorexia nervosa and bulimia..... Page 3

A glimpse of the might of Rome

British and Italian scholars hailed the discovery of eight almost perfectly preserved Ancient Roman ships buried in the mud of what was once the harbour at Pisa as "an astonishing step back into the past" and a "rare insight into Rome as a maritime and trading power". One wooden ship, with an elongated prow, is thought to have had a military purpose..... Page 11



The Queen autographs a celadon teapot in Seoul yesterday at the start of her four-day visit to South Korea. Page 9

BUSINESS

Crisis over

The International Monetary Fund declared an end to the worst phase of world economic crisis that began almost two years ago in Asia and then spread to Russia and Latin America..... Page 29

Shares dive: Shares took a breath-taking nosedive as dealers followed heavy overnight selling on Wall Street..... Page 29

How at the top: France's acquisitive LVMH has gained control of the Chateau d'Yquem vineyard after settling a long legal quarrel with the property's manager, Count Alexandre de Lur Saluces..... Page 29

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 195.5 to 6319.8. The pound rose 0.44 cents to \$1.6161 but fell 0.09 cents against the euro to 65.94p. The index rose to 104.0 from 103.9..... Page 32

SPORT

Football

Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke, the strikers who have carried Manchester United to the European Cup semi-final, know they must recapture their best form to take the team past the obstacle of Juventus tonight..... Pages 56, 52

Tennis: Despite winning the first set, Tim Henman contrived to lose to Fernando Meligeni in the Monte-Carlo Open..... Page 54

Rugby union: Leicester and Northampton, the country's leading clubs, are confident that better times are ahead, even though they will make substantial financial losses this season..... Page 50

Simon Barnes: Peter Schmeichel's form this season is even more admirable for his indifferent form at the start of the season..... Page 52

Saucy Semelle: Underwear, nudity, groping: English National Opera's new excursion into Handel is nothing if not diverting..... Page 43

King's goes Russian: Shedding its usual Anglican repertoire, the choir of King's College Cambridge brought an absolutely splendid performance of Rachmaninov's Vespers to London..... Page 43

ARTS

Off the wall: Kurt Schwitters, pioneer of European avant-garde art between the wars, ended his life working feverishly on a wall mural for a Cumbrian barn. Now the wall has gone on display..... Page 41

Fings revived: A boisterous new production of *Fings Ain't Wot They Used t'Be* pays tribute to the songwriter Lionel Bart, who died this month..... Page 42

Rugby union: Underwear, nudity, groping: English National Opera's new excursion into Handel is nothing if not diverting..... Page 43

King's goes Russian: Shedding its usual Anglican repertoire, the choir of King's College Cambridge brought an absolutely splendid performance of Rachmaninov's Vespers to London..... Page 43

FEATURES

Easy money

How to make savings in the garden and the financial implications of marriage..... Page 19

Gene generosity: A \$45 million project researching DNA building blocks could provide insights into diseases..... Page 20

No small matter: Children are the innocent victims of a crumbling relationship and they must come first in any divorce battle..... Page 21

HOMES

Safe as houses: Investors frustrated with low savings rates are putting their money into properties for rent..... Page 38

UNIVERSITY GUIDE

Building blocks: What is on offer in science and engineering and work experience advice..... Page 26

FOCUS

Pride: The Queen's Awards for Export, Technological and Environmental Achievement..... Pages 44-47

THE PAPERS

India's divisive ethnic and regional politics have produced one political crisis after another. Now these tensions have caused the collapse of the Hindu nationalist Government. The beneficiary could be the troubled Congress Party, which has governed India for most of the last 15 years..... *The New York Times*..... Page 25

RADIO & TV

Preview: Manchester United's battle to get to the European Cup final (ITV, 7.30) Review: All animal life is here — in North London says Joe Joseph of BBC1's new series, *A Life of Grime*..... Pages 54-55

OPINION

Food for the table: Mr Hague has rightly told the Shadow Cabinet that it must concentrate on the issues that really matter to ordinary voters. The Conservatives should, though, associate themselves with substantial solutions to core problems..... Page 23

Beyond the Balkans

Turkey has swung towards nationalism. There is less to fear from this than meets the eye..... Page 23

Not by sea

The Romans were not natural sailors. Evidence of their power is the straight roads, not shipwrecks. They may have tried to rule the waves but they never loved being on them..... Page 23

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS
There are three Kosovan wars. NATO has lost the first, the second is still being fought, and the third has not properly begun. Since conflict takes a mounting toll on reason, we must struggle to keep these wars distinct..... Page 22

ROLAND WATSON

It takes a rare mix of the brilliant and the flawed, the spiky and the exotic to elbow aside the Balkans and demand a leading slot on the war-dominated news agenda. But one Labour politician has it..... Page 22

ALAN COREN

When not travelling by car, for example, Her Majesty is uniquely entitled to stand upstairs on buses. Should she spit, however, she is liable to the same fine as anyone else, although she would, of course, be given time to pay..... Page 22

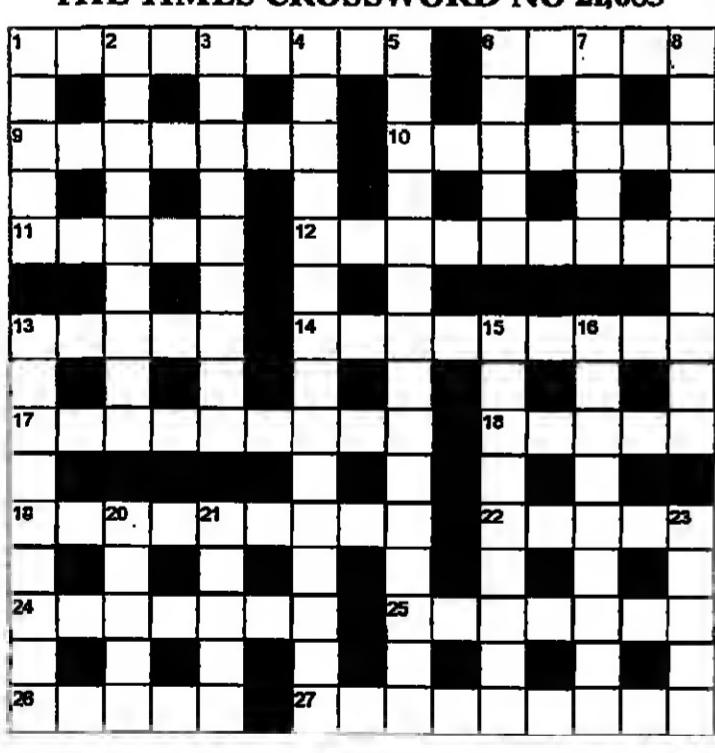
OBITUARIES

Dame Kathleen Raven, Chief Nursing Officer; Adolfo Bioy Casares, writer; Norman Williams, lawyer and philatelist..... Page 25

LETTERS

War reporting; prison reform; modified crops; digital TV; BBC: "lost" war memorial..... Page 23

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,083



- 1 Very late at night louts, having lost out, run wild (4,5).
6 In Latin, this version of the Bible creates confusion (5).
9 Conveyance of art isn't involved (7).
10 Pretentious American with money — a bit of brass (7).
11 Country using old Spanish and German currency (5).
12 Free — anybody enters without charge (9).
13 Stayed only a short time after turning blue (5).
14 Criminal given discharge in the French sense (9).
17 Throw, rake out — you need a spade for this (8).
18 It turns to right, or to left, originally (5).
19 Reversing direction in public transport in complex situation (5-1).
22 Surly king's terrible temper (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,082

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WEATHER

UK Weather

UK Weather: All regions 0326 401 410
UK Roads: All regions 0326 401 410
UK Rail: All regions 0326 401 747
P25 and Link Roads 0326 401 747
National Motorways 0326 401 748
Complaints 0326 401 749
Channel crossings 0326 401 750
Motoring to Headcorn 0326 407 505

Weather by fax

UK Weather by fax 0326 401 410
Met Office 0326 401 410

World City Weather

World City Weather 0326 401 410
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Motoring

European Country by Country 0326 401 405
European fuel costs 0326 401 405
Freight information 0326 401 405
Complaints 0326 401 405
Champagne Ports 0326 401 405

Car reports by fax

Car reports by fax 0326 410 500
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Weather forecasts

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SB hopes for brittle bone treatment dashed

By PAUL DURMAN

SIDE effect problems have forced SmithKline Beecham to abandon work on an osteoporosis drug that was one of its most promising compounds after spending hundreds of millions of pounds on its development.

The setback with idoxifene, which was intended to prevent the brittle bone disease, will increase the importance placed on Avandia, the potential diabetes blockbuster, which American regulators will review tomorrow. The success of Avandia, which if approved could be launched in June, is seen as the cornerstone of SB's future growth, and even of the company's continued independence.

Jan Leschly, chief executive, said SB had spent "hundreds of millions" on taking idoxifene through to phase III trials but a recent review concluded that the drug would not be effective. Some forecasts had suggested the drug could generate annual sales of almost £500 million a year. SB is continuing to develop the compound to treat breast cancer.

The group reported strong first-quarter results, with pre-tax profits 16 per cent ahead at £510 million from sales 11 per cent higher at £2.1 billion. The growth came largely from Seroxat/Paxil, the anti-depressant market share that is winning market share from Eli Lilly's Prozac, from the anxiolytic Augmentin, whose sales rose 19 per cent to £297 million, and from Nicorette and other anti-smoking products, where sales grew by two-thirds (£12 million).

SB has also had to stop work on developing Famvir to treat hepatitis B because of poor trial results. Mr Leschly said SB still had six drugs in phase III development, including Aritta for emphysema, the potent antibiotic Factive and Bexar for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Mr Leschly dismissed persistent suggestions that he intends to retire early — a move seen as encouraging the likelihood of SB entering into a merger.

He said the company was on course to meet its forecast for this year of underlying earnings growth of 13 per cent. After adjusting for currency fluctuations, first-quarter earnings per share rose by exactly this amount.

Clinical Laboratories and Diversified Pharmaceutical Services, the two American businesses recently sold for \$2 billion (£1.25 billion), contributed quarterly profits of only £11 million, although this was a sharp improvement on last year.

The success with smoking cessation products enabled the consumer healthcare division to increase profits by 27 per cent to £89 million.

Tempus page 32

NET PROFITS
www.times-money.co.uk



Bill Wood, left, managing director of Cosalt, and Neil Carrick, financial director, wearing survival clothing made by the supplier of workwear and safety equipment to unveil flat profits of £2.3 million in its half year to February 28. Cosalt blamed "challenging" trading conditions. Earnings per share fell 4 per cent, to 12.8p. The interim payout rises to 4.75p (4.5p).

Bank chiefs fear cost of three-way merger

FROM PAUL ARMSTRONG IN PARIS

THE French banking industry is fearing for its future amid the growing prospect that the hostile three-way merger between Banque Paribas, Société Générale and Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP) could end in stalemate.

Banks' senior executives acknowledge that the biter battle may fail to produce a clear winner, instead leaving the financiers linked by a string of minority shareholdings.

They say this would undermine the strength of the industry and they have no idea how France's banking regulators would solve the problem.

"That is a way of destroying the French banking system," Daniel Bouton, the chairman

SocGen and Paribas are re-

jecting BNP's offer on the grounds that a hostile, three-way merger has never been achieved in the banking sector and would not work in this case.

M Bouton claimed yesterday that a three-way merger would see the trio's combined revenue from retail banking fall by at least 5 per cent, and possibly much more.

He argued that the revenue drop, which would be caused by customers taking some of their business to banks unconnected to the group, would occur immediately.

But M Bouton said it would take significantly longer to bring down costs to the same extent.

SocGen and Paribas also rejected suggestions made yesterday by Claude Bébér, a BNP director, who claimed that senior executives of the two takeover targets had told him in February that they might be interested in forging closer ties with a retail bank such as BNP.

André Levy-Lang, Paribas chairman, said the possibility of a three-way merger involving BNP was first raised by AXA, the French insurance group chaired by M Bébér. M Bébér is also a director of SocGen and Paribas.

M Levy-Lang said he and M Bouton told M Bébér that they "had other things to worry about than BNP".

No recession for us, says St Ives

BY ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

MILES EMLEY, the chairman of magazine and direct mail printer St Ives, said yesterday that the much feared UK recession had not hit — at least not in its markets.

St Ives is closely linked with many parts of the economy, printing books — including Maeve Binchy bestsellers — a range of consumer and professional magazines, direct mailings, and documentation for mergers and acquisitions. Yesterday Mr Emley said: "This was the recession that never was."

But he added: "The growth

rate has slowed and, to use the jargon, there is a soft landing."

His comments came as St Ives posted a 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £27.3 million for the six months to 29 January. Earnings per share rose to 18.04p from 16.23p and the half-time dividend is 0.5p ahead at 4.25p.

St Ives shares were the best performing of the top 350 London stocks yesterday rising more than 10 per cent to 530.4p, on a day of sharply falling markets.

Overall, St Ives' growth



Miles Emley: 'soft landing'

Tempus, page 32

HSBC's star team of five makes £8m

BY JASON NISSE

TWO employees of HSBC Holdings, the banking group, earned more than £2 million last year according to the company's annual report.

One picked up a package worth between £2.4 million and £2.5 million and another received between £2.1 million and £2.2 million.

They were among a team of five traders who earned a total of £8.18 million between them. The five — not named — almost certainly work at HSBC Investment Bank in London.

The worst-paid of the five earned the same as the best-

paid director of HSBC, the chairman of the group's Hongkong Bank subsidiary, John Strickland. Mr Strickland, who retired at the end of last year, received a total package worth £934,000.

The report also points out

that senior directors and managers are in line for a £3.03 million windfall from the group's restricted share plan. This scheme was opposed by many shareholders when it was introduced in 1996 because it was too generous to its recipients.

Commentary, page 31

It's the good life for L&G and the Pru

BY GAVIN LUMSOEN

THE life insurance sector remained in buoyant mood yesterday as Legal & General and Prudential revealed new business had risen by 32 per cent and 18 per cent respectively in the first quarter of the year.

Consolidating its dominance of the market in pooled corporate pensions, L&G won a string of new mandates for its index tracking investment

style, giving it £2.9 billion of new money to manage, an increase of 97 per cent on the same period last year.

Meanwhile, the Pru's banking operations, including Egg, brought in another £3 billion to deposits, bringing £5 billion the total of cash it now handles on behalf of 400,000 savers.

In their core areas of long-term savings, both insurers reported good growth, although the two trends away from regular premiums towards one-

off payments and away from pension towards investment policies continued.

Single premium with profit and investment bonds proved especially popular as older savers shifted money out of low interest building society and bank accounts. L&G's bond sales rose 42.4 per cent to £144 million while the Pru's Prudence Bond surged 59 per cent to £434 million.

Overall, L&G saw UK weighted individual sales, including Peps and unit

trusts, advance by 29.3 per cent to £100.5 million.

By contrast, the Pru's entire UK operation increased sales by a relatively meagre 8 per cent to £215 million. Scottish Amicable, the group's channel for independent financial advisers, achieved a 24 per cent rise in sales to £111 million, although the effect of this was negated by the Pru's salesforce which upped sales by 10 per cent to £104 million.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

C&W poised to raise bid for IDC

BY CARL MORTISHEO
INTERNATIONAL
BUSINESS EDITOR

SHELL, the multinational oil company, says that European law is preventing it from blacklisting corrupt oil industry contractors.

The Anglo-Dutch oil group yesterday published its annual report on ethics and sustainable development, which disclosed that it sacked 69 contractors and suppliers last year. It dismissed three employees for alleged bribery in 1996 and decisions are pending on three.

Mark Moody-Stuart, Shell's chairman, admitted that the ethics of some suppliers were highly questionable. "I would dearly love to cross them off the list," he said. "If we did so, we would be in trouble with the European Commission."

He denied that Shell had behaved in its contractors in countries such as Nigeria, where corruption is widespread. "If we feel a company was not behaving ethically in relation to our business, we would terminate that contract," he said.

Mr Moody-Stuart admitted, however, that the problem is common. "You cannot impose on people's general work your own standards," he said. "If we did that, we could not deal with certain companies. If you read the French newspapers, you would see that is the case."

Shell's report, *People, Planets & Profits*, shows a reduction in incidents of corruption among staff compared with 1997, when 23 people were sacked. However, the report indicates that a fifth of the group's 131 country chairmen identified bribery and corruption as a concern.

Shell's report includes critiques of its social development policy, published from its Internet forum. One entry reads: "All very well, but how did you manage to lose 25 per cent of the stock value in two months? By social activity? Get real!"

Mr Moody-Stuart said: "Our commitment to sustainable development is inextricably linked to our long-term business."

Internet warning

WESTERN EUROPE faces a devastating shortage of almost 600,000 Internet experts by 2002, potentially ruining the region's economic competitiveness, a report out today says. The shortage is likely to hit small and medium-sized firms hardest because it will let freelancing "networking professionals" keep on raising their fees. *The Internet Economy — An Emerging Paradox?* by IDC, the researcher, for Cisco Systems, forecasts a UK shortage of about 82,000 experts by 2002.

Stephen Byers, Britain's Trade and Industry's Secretary, has already written to the Japanese Government, warning it that if NTT gains control of IDC, it will "raise regulatory and competition issues".

Jurys takes over Doyle

JURYS Hotel Group has finally coaxed its privately-owned Dublin rival, Doyle Hotel Group, to the altar. Seven months after it admitted being in talks, Jurys yesterday announced it was taking over Doyle for £258.2 million (£157 million). Including debt, Doyle is worth £314.4 million. Jurys, to be renamed Jurys Doyle Hotel Group, is paying half in new shares and the balance in cash. Doyle has seven hotels in Dublin, three in Washington DC and the Clifton Ford Hotel in London.

Video five sign up

FIVE video game developers, with an average age of 28, yesterday signed a multi-million pound deal with Eidos, the company behind hit games titles such as *Tomb Raider*. The five are to develop new titles for Eidos through their Free Radical Design company. Four of them were previously responsible for the *GoldenEye* video game adaptation of the James Bond film, which has so far sold more than six million copies. The terms of yesterday's deal have not been disclosed.

Bellway sales slip

BELLWAY, the residential housebuilder, blamed delays in the planning process for a slight drop in the number of sales in the first half but said it was confident of making up ground during the rest of the year. Pre-tax profits for the six months to January 31, 1999, fell to £21.2 million, from £22.8 million, as the number of homes sold in the period slipped to 2,007 from 2,092. The interim dividend rises to 3.3p (3.0p).

New Michelin man

MICHELIN, the French tyre manufacturer, yesterday announced that Edouard Michelin, 36, would succeed his father, Francois, 73, as head of the secretive, family-controlled firm. The transition comes as a sensitive time for Michelin, following an 8.5 per cent fall in profits last year to Fr 3.7 billion (£372 million) because of the intense competition with Bridgestone and Goodyear.

McCarthy & Stone up

MCCARTHY & STONE, the retirement homes builder, is to exploit the "firmness" in the housing market to invest up to £20 million in the North East and West of England. In the six months to February 28, the company sold 605 homes up from 490 last time and booked a 33 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £12.1 million on turnover of £1.7 million (£41.0 million). The interim dividend rises to 1.33p (1.0p).

Air Partner down 35%

AIR PARTNER, the chartered corporate jet group formerly known as Air London International, said yesterday that profits slumped 35 per cent at the interim stage because of a fall off in demand over the Christmas quarter. Pre-tax profits for the six months to January 31 were £849,000, but the company is raising the interim dividend to 3.5p (3p) on improved prospects for the second half. The shares fell 12.5p to 212p.

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$.....	2.56	2.41	Italy Lira	3115	2878
Austria Sch.....	22.50	20.25	Japan Yen	205.74	188.21
Belgium Fr.....	64.43	59.47	Malta	0.6864	0.6864
Canada \$.....	1.532	1.344	Montenegro ...	5.35	5.34
Dynasty Cny.....	0.6260	0.6498	New Zealand \$....	3.09	2.86
Denmark Kr.....	0.97	0.95	Norway Kr	13.18	12.24
Egypt	5.74	5.13	Poland Zlote	318.08	294.50
Finland Mkr.....	9.98	8.83	Portugal Escudos	2.45	2.40
France Fr.....	10.43	9.65	Spain Peseta	14.32	13.22
Greece Dr.....	3.63	2.96	Sweden Kr	2.02	1.93
Hong Kong \$.....	5.20	4.81	Switzerland Fr	637.974	598.570
Iceland Kr.....	13.38	12.18	USA \$.....	1.727	1.584
Indonesia Rupi.....	1.58	1.10	Rates for small denominated banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.		
Ireland Pounds	1.7065	1.6260			
Israel Sheq.....	1.2501	1.1811			
	6.90	6.24			

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Speculators cheered by interest in Greenalls

INVESTORS were happy to raise a glass to Greenalls, the pubs and De Vere hotel chain operator, amid claims Whitbread is poised to launch a bid. Greenalls touched 31p before settling 8½p dearer at 34½p as talk of a bid of up to 500p a share from rival Whitbread, 31p higher at 103.8p, did the rounds.

Whitbread is known to be on the lookout for suitable acquisitions and brokers reckon that its Marriott hotel chain would make a nice fit with Greenalls. De Vere chain and David Lloyd with Village Leisure.

The speculators were also keeping an eye on Swallow Group, up 12½p at 317p, whose Vaux Breweries business was recently the subject of a failed management buyout. Analysts reckon Whitbread, Ladbrokes, and Millenium & Copthorne Hotels could all be interested.

The overnight loss of a 250-point lead on Wall Street and heavy losses suffered by the high-tech stocks on Nasdaq seen investors in London scurrying for cover. Prices tumbled across the board in London as investors raced to take profits following the record breaking run of the past few days. Opening losses for the Dow Jones industrial average in early trading yesterday only compounded the problem.

The FTSE 100 index, down 23.1 at one stage, eventually closed 19.5 lower at 6,319.8 in another big trading session that saw 1.2 billion shares change hands. The FTSE 250 index also shed 95.8 to 5,753.6. Further losses are expected over the next few days.

There was a clear move by investors out of telecom stocks, which suffered some of the biggest falls among blue chips, and into the drinks and leisure sectors. Energen dropped 137p to 1,615.1. Reuters 70½p to 861p, COLT Telecom 83p to 101.70, and Telewest 20p to 252p, while Reckitt & Colman climbed 18p to 679p, Diageo 12p to 688p and Scottish & Newcastle 4p to 703p.

Marks & Spencer rose 11p to 444p on the back of speculation that Warren Buffett has acquired a 3 per cent stake. But West L Pannure, the broker, says the shares are a "strong sell".

Kingfisher, down 50p to 746p, continued to lose ground in the wake of announcing merger terms with Asda, 10p



John McCarthy, chairman, left, and Keith Lovelock, chief executive, saw shares of McCarthy & Stone slip 3½p to 203½p

off at 183½p. The Television Corporation, a recent high-flier, came under pressure retreating 6p to 292½p after Terry Bate, chairman, sold one million shares at 26p. He continues to hold 4.6 million, or 17.78 per cent. Earlier this week, Schroder Investment Management lifted its stake in the company to 3.4 million shares, or 13 per cent.

The prospect of a bidding war developing for control of First Choice Holidays, 2p firmer at 192p, took some of the shine off its other competitors with Airports losing another 35p to 453½p and Thomson Travel shedding 16p to 159p. Thomson is adamant that it will not give up its status as market leader. However, fund managers, still mind-

ful of the damage inflicted on the industry during the last price war, are said to be searching at the company's threat to go down the same route in a bid to damage Airports should it target First Choice.

First Choice has already agreed terms with Kuoni of Switzerland, but City speculators are convinced that one of its rival companies will be making a spoiling bid.

Bid hopes at Blagden Industries dived when the group announced plans to dispose of a "substantial part" of the business and return the proceeds to shareholders. Blagden was the subject of unsuccessful bid talks with potential partners last year. The price finished 4½p lower at 147p.

Aggregate Industries retreated 4p to 84½p as some chunky blocks of stock went through the market. It included 2.5 million at 87p, and a further 2 million at 86p.

By contrast, Thistle Hotels firmed 16p to 179p supported by the appearance of a large buyer snapping up a line of 3.46 million shares at 177p and 3.4 million also at 177p. A further line of 1.19 million went through at 178p level. The shares now stand just 9p above the 170p they were floated at in the autumn of 1996.

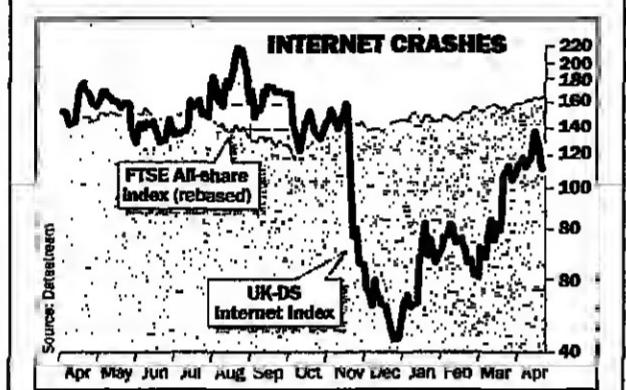
Affinity Internet, the internet provider, began trading on AIM after a placing by Charles Stanley, the broker, at 70p. Despite the drubbing received by other high-tech stocks, Affinity ended the session at 140p.

There was a lukewarm response to interim results from McCarthy & Stone, down 3½p to 203½p. The builder and operator of sheltered accommodation reported an increase in pre-tax profits of £1.2 million compared with £9.1 million last time.

GILT-LEDGED: Bond prices stretched this week's lead with gains stretching to more than 1p among longer-dated issues. In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt rose 43p to 117.48 as 21,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 rose 113p to 117.68, while in shorts Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 150p dearer at 106.34.

NEW YORK: US blue chips were lower despite a recovery in high-tech shares. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 41.23 points to 10,399.30.

London Pacific, which is reckoned to boast a \$1 billion portfolio of Internet stocks, fell 55p to 372½p. Losses were recorded in Internet players such as



Source: Datastream
UK-IBIS Internet Index

THE self-off of technology stocks this week on Nasdaq is likely to act as a warning to investors not to get too carried away.

Investors on both sides of the Atlantic have been indiscriminately buying shares in companies that have yet to make a profit and whose market value is based on their alleged potential to do well. The shake-out on Nasdaq is probably a healthy move and was matched, to a certain extent in London.

Acorn Group was another casualty, dropping 24½p to 210p. It has a 27 per cent stake in Arm Holdings, steady at 25.95, which enjoys a quote in London and on Nasdaq.

London Pacific, which is

referred to as a \$1 billion portfolio of Internet stocks, fell 55p to 372½p. Losses were recorded in Internet players such as

Geo Interactive Media, down at 136½p, Upn, 50p lower at 142½p, Internet Technology, 13p cheaper at 179p, Easynet, 30p down at 505p, and Sports Internet 18p to 163½p.

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As the IMF sounded the all-clear yesterday, investors apparently dived for the air raid shelters. In Washington, they may have decided that global meltdown is not about to happen but in London, this welcome reassurance was greeted with a near-200 point fall in the FTSE.

Could this apparently churlish response have actually been the result of a close reading of the IMF forecasts and a realisation that, while worldwide recession may have been avoided, share prices have run way out of line of growth prospects? Unlikely. What we saw was just a little bout of profit-taking rather than any dawning of long-term common sense.

That Dixon was one of the major victims does not amount to a realisation that its sudden transformation into an Internet stock is to be charitable, still unproven. The shares still trade at almost treble their low point for the year. No wonder some were tempted to crystallise the extraordinary gains they have made.

COLT Telecom, even after yesterday's hefty 7p dip, remains in the stratosphere, and profitless.

At some stage, stock markets on both sides of the Atlantic will have to reassess valuations in relation to earnings, but that day has not yet arrived. The IMF takes the view that the threat of a stock market crash in the US is now abating, but a significant adjustment is inevitable.

For the UK, the IMF predicts only 0.7 per cent growth in the

current year, lower than the Treasury's own forecast of between 1 and 1.5 per cent. That FTSE companies are now selling on an average of more than 28 times earnings indicates the incredibly optimistic view being pursued by some investors.

Looked at starkly, the figures are enough to drive one into sympathising with poor Tony Dye and his colleagues at PDM, but we all know where their determinedly rational approach has left them: losing clients at a rapid rate.

Mr Dye insists on looking at the real world rather than the virtual one. John Monks, the trade union leader, is peering through the same tinted spectacles and yesterday he was once more warning of the two nations into which the UK is rapidly dividing. Jobs in manufacturing industry continue to ebb away: what is manufactured in Morocco for Marks & Spencer is no longer manufactured in Britain. There are now regions of the country where the only new jobs being created appear to be in call centres built to service the needs of those in the wealthier parts of the country. And the chances are that as the virtual world takes hold, and more and more business is done over the Internet, the

call centres will become as redundant as many of those who now staff them once were.

Lower interest rates will not revive ship-building in Britain nor restore the textile industry, yet the calls for further cuts go on.

Yesterday John Edmonds denounced the members of the Monetary Policy Committee as "dilettante" and intimated that a trade unionist on the MPC could change things. Wishful thinking.

Even gnomes slam withholding tax

There is honour among financial centres after all. Zurich, the supposed beneficiary of the European Commission's loopy proposals to impose withholding tax on interest, turns out to be aghast at the idea.

Being neutral means trying not to upset more powerful nations such as Germany too much. The last thing the Swiss want to do, therefore, is to upset all their neighbours and key trad-

Shares go their own way

COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

ing partners at once. But that is exactly what they would do if they vacuumed up the custom not just of eurobond investors but of EU savers as a whole to avoid withholding tax.

A high-level Swiss financial delegation, which came to the City yesterday to promote its high-tech integrated trading system to eurobond traders, instead spent much of its time disclaiming any desire to host the fleeing billions, although the Swiss would probably toe the Brussels line rather than challenge it, lest some future referendum force them to do so.

If that sounds good news for promoters of the tax, it isn't. The Swiss have their own 35 per cent withholding tax but exempt foreign holders of essentially foreign stocks. Georg Krayer, president of the Association of Swiss Bankers, points out that the issue has only resurfaced because savings immediately fled to Luxembourg when Germany and The Netherlands last tried all-purpose national withholding taxes.

At the weekend meeting of EU finance ministers in Dresden, the UK appeared to be playing dangerously with some compromise formula to save the London eurobond trade. Even Mario Monti, the retiring EU Tax Commissioner, says that this will not work. He has not explained that it would tax small investors but exempt the rich, a formula that even the most federal-minded social democrat might find hard to swallow. There are yet more compelling reasons for London to say no, such as higher taxes for even the smallest pension saver.

Luxembourg, unlike panting Blairite Britain, is at the centre of Europe. Its burghers know how to do things. At Dresden, Luxembourg called for harmonisation (or banning) of inward investment incentives to be brought in with the withholding tax. It was a cunning move. This project is being led by our own Dawn Primarolo. It has counted 200 new rules and rising. No effective recommendations are likely before November, long after tax-hungry

manding as they ought to be. But the first-quarter figures show the company well on course to deliver its promised 13 per cent increase in earnings, which will be enough to quell most investors' potential criticisms.

Mr Leschly's pay package does, however, put other deals into perspective. It is evidence of a UK company handing our US-style remuneration. As Glaxo has tacitly noted, other British companies that class themselves as global players will have to move towards the SB levels, if not so far or so fast.

As we become conditioned to the new norms, a mere couple of million pounds for an HSBC banker will seem perfectly reasonable reward for a year's toil in the financial markets.

Standard Life's Guy Jubb is going to find the attitude adjustment hard, but it has to come.

Colossus of erodes

TOMORROW Bernard Arnault's battle for Gucci lands back in the Dutch courts. M Arnault's acquisitions are rarely straightforward affairs. Gucci has tried to expedite matters by saying that an offer of \$88 a share would be acceptable, but that is far too simple a solution to appeal to the chairman of LVMH. He has spent several years trying to win control of another up-market label for his wine cellar. Yesterday he was able to declare victory. Never mind money, he had won the opposition into submission.

Debenhams in fashion with £79.4m

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

TERRY GREEN, chief executive of Debenhams, said the department store group has been taking market share in women's and men's clothing from Marks & Spencer, its beleaguered high street rival.

But Mr Green gave warning of a likely fightback. "I imagine that Marks & Spencer must be making some recovery from its position pre-Christmas. You could say it is making it tougher, not easier," he said.

M&S was forced to issue a profit warning after terrible trading over the key Christmas period. Other clothing retailers have run into difficulties because of the downturn in spending and a large overhang of stock. Mr Green said yesterday: "It's a tough environment out there. It is still volatile, but we think it's improving."

In the six months to February 27, total sales rose 2 per cent to £785.2 million. While like-for-like sales were down 1.9 per cent, costs also fell by a similar amount. Interim pre-tax profits rose 3 per cent to

£79.4 million. Earnings per share were up 2.2 per cent to 14.1p and the company is paying an interim dividend of 4.1p (3.9p).

The gross margin increased by 0.2 percentage points to an estimated 42.1 per cent in the first half. The company said margins were substantially up again in the first seven weeks of the second half. Like-for-like sales, said the company, are down by a similar amount to the first half in the period.

Four new stores were opened in the first half, at Leeds Bridgegate, Brighton, Hanley and the Trafford Centre in Manchester. There are now 90 stores in the UK. The new programme, announced at the time of Debenhams' demerger from the Burton Group last year, will see it increase to more than 100 UK stores by 2003.

Franchise stores have been opened in Kuwait and Dubai, and another is set to open in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in October 2000.

Tempo, page 32

Cut-price stores see sales surge

BY FRASER NELSON

TJ HUGHES, which runs 23 cut-price department stores across the UK, said it has lifted underlying sales by 11.6 per cent for the first ten weeks of 1999 as it wins market share from its mid-market rivals.

The company, whose wares include cheap Calvin Klein underwear, said many of its shoppers have deserted traditional high street leaders after finding them too expensive.

Pre-tax profits jumped to £5.1 million (£3 million) for the year to January 31 and earnings were 13.9p (10.2p) a share. A final dividend of 2.76p makes a 3.89p (3.37p) total.

Anglo in bid for Reunion

BY CARL MORTISHED

ANGLO AMERICAN Corporation, the South African mining and industrial conglomerate, is building up its position in zinc with a recommended £37 million bid for Reunion Mining, which controls Skorpion, a big zinc mining project in Namibia in which Anglo has a minority share.

The bid is being made by Minoro, Anglo's affiliate, which is to be integrated fully into Anglo when the South African group moves its primary stock exchange listing to London next month.

Anglo yesterday said that current weakness in base metal prices provide a good opportunity to develop its base metals business. The acquisition of Reunion's 60 per cent interest in Skorpion would give Anglo 100 per cent of the mine, which has ore reserves of 19.5 million tonnes of zinc.

Minoro is offering 88p per Reunion share and has undertaken to accept from Reunion directors and others that exceed 50 per cent of Reunion.

Audit office attacks sale by British Coal

THE National Audit Office (NAO) will today tell Parliament that British Coal's sale of CIN Management (CINMAN), a subsidiary that advised and managed its pension funds, was needlessly protracted and expensive (Saeed Shah writes).

The watchdog says that the agreement between the Government, British Coal, CINMAN and the trustees of the pension schemes meant that the sale, completed in 1996, took a

year longer than expected, raising its costs to £7.7 million. The management and staff of CINMAN almost derailed the sale by threatening to resign.

The original aim to sell CINMAN as one entity had to be dropped after objections from the trustees and it was eventually sold in three parts for £48.9 million. The NAO says that this was substantially less than some bidders had offered for the whole business.



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Tim Lamb, the chief executive of the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB), is an optimist. Then again he has to be. If you were attempting the Herculean task of restoring English cricket to the fortunes it enjoyed when the likes of May, Hutton and Illingworth led teams that could triumph over all our former colonies — and all you have to lose is Zimbabwe — you would have to be positive.

However, to trumpet that the English game will make a £50 million profit from the cricket World Cup, which starts next month, is a little over exuberant. It may look like a good figure, but it does not bear close examination.

For a start, the £50 million figure, which actually refers to the ECB's income not profit, is disappointing when compared with the target set by Lamb and the ECB's chairman, Lord MacLaurin, of Knebworth. The ECB had hoped to clear something in the range of £35 million to £40 million to take advantage of an event that is un-

Lamb's scoring is wide of the mark

likely to be back on these shores for at least two decades.

The ECB's plan went like this. It would raise about £25 million from broadcasting revenues — mainly television — and £15 million from sponsorship. That £40 million would be split between the ECB and the International Cricket Council — the overall ruling body of cricket — on a 50-50 basis.

In addition, the ECB would also get money from gate receipts at the matches and from merchandising. The former was budgeted to bring in £1 million, the latter, with the help of Caprice, a US model famous for wearing Wonderbras, was expected to raise £1 million.

This would have left a gross income to the ECB of £32 million. The costs of staging the event — hiring venues, transporting teams to the UK and to the grounds and catering, though not the wages for

team members, which comes out of the ICC pool and from the local cricket boards — is estimated to be £18 million. This would have left a profit of about £14 million if all had gone to plan.

But it has not. The broadcast income has come in at about £23.5 million. The UK television revenue was fine — the ECB struck an £8 million deal with BSkyB, which allowed some matches to be shown on the BBC. However, an expected bonanza from selling the rights to the Indian sub-continent was not quite as lucrative as had been hoped for, leaving a £1.5 million shortfall.

Sponsorship was also disappointing. The ECB has wanted eight global partners and four official suppliers, paying a total of £15 million for the pleasure. It secured only four global partners — NatWest, Pepsi, Vodafone and Emir-

BUSINESS

By Jason Nisse

ates Airlines — but was able to sign six official suppliers. The total raised from sponsorship was £10.5 million.

Michael Browning, the ECB's tournament organiser, blames a number of factors for why the sponsorship figure fell short. One is the Asian financial crisis. The ECB had hoped to sign at least one Japanese company as a global partner

— in the end it had to make do with Honda as a supplier. Secondly, it started too late. The ECB began its search for sponsors two years ago — Browning believes that this was 12 months tardy as cricket is not always at the top of people's sponsorship wishlist.

Thirdly, the ECB had planned to use "virtual sponsorship" — an electronic system in which logos show up on television screens in some countries rather than others.

This would be used to sell a sponsorship deal probably to Wills, the cigarette-maker, which operates mainly in India and Pakistan. However, after a couple of technical tests, the plan was dropped.

The ECB is putting a brave face on this £4.5 million shortfall, and sponsorship experts think that the problem was not that the ECB did poorly attracting sponsors, but that it had set its sights too high.

Nigel Currie of Craigie Taylor, which advises Vodafone on sponsorship, says that the ECB probably thought that as there was no football World Cup or Olympics this year, it would be able to capitalise on the absence of a big sporting event to win sponsorship. However, it forgot that the rugby union World Cup takes place in the UK this autumn and probably lost a sponsor or two because of this.

The rugby factor has also hindered attempts by some of the teams to secure sponsors. As I write there is no news on a West Indies backer and if you fancy sponsoring the first Scottish team in the cricket World Cup, Gavin Hastings, the former Scottish rugby captain, awaits your call.

The big shame is that the ECB has not signed up a big consumer brand — like Snickers or McDonald's — which would help to pro-

mote the event through its own promotions," says Mr Currie. Vodafone is doing this to a certain extent and Pepsi might be expected to do something, but it seems most of its promotions are aimed at India and Pakistan, where it is in a bigger battle with Coke.

The final part of the jigsaw is ticket sales. Browning is confident about hitting the £11 million target, having already sold £9 million worth of tickets a month before the event even starts.

All in all this adds up to a gross income for the ECB of £29 million and a profit of about £11 million — a tidy sum but not quite Mr Lamb's £30 million. Of course, the World Cup has meant that there will be two test matches fewer this year than last, a loss of about £5 million in potential profits. So the ECB will end up about £6 million better off than it would have been if it had not staged the World Cup.

As they say at Tesco, Lord MacLaurin's old stomping ground, "every little helps".

jason.nisse@the-times.co.uk

North-South divide masks reality of divergent economies

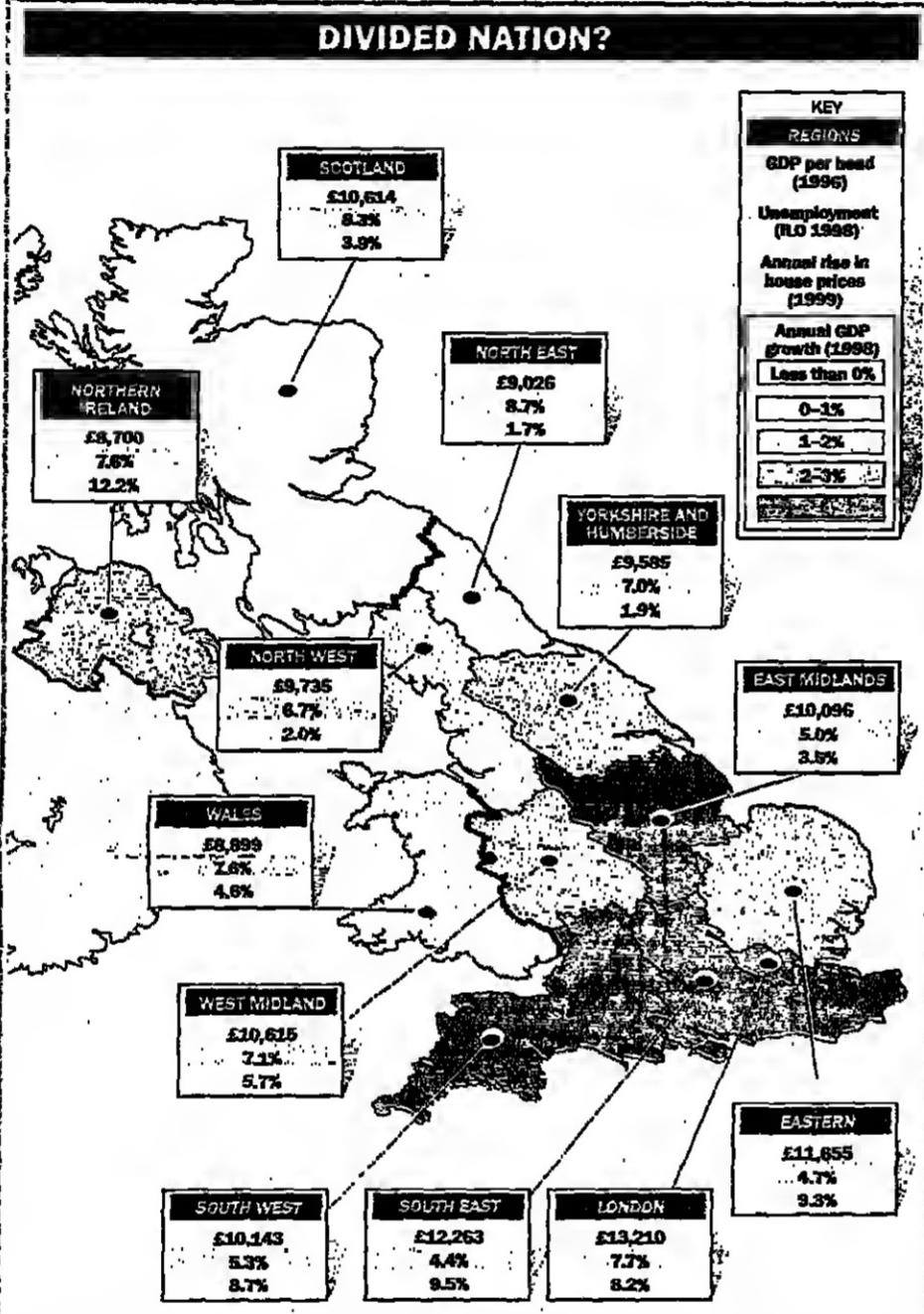
Alasdair Murray examines the increasing clamour for a regional approach

When Eddie George inadvertently suggested that unemployment in the North was a "price worth paying" for keeping inflation in check, he appeared to confirm the region's worst prejudices about the southern bias inherent in Threadneedle Street. A string of indignant manufacturers, union leaders and politicians queued up to berate the Governor of the Bank of England for suggesting that national economic policy was dictated by the excesses of the housing market in the South East. The understandable suspicion was that centralising economic policymaking in London inevitably leads to suffering in the regions.

The regional dimension to economic policymaking is set to become a staple of political debate with the creation of the Regional Development Agencies in England and the imminent arrival of the Scottish and Welsh parliaments. For the first time in years, the Bank and the Treasury are facing concerted opposition to national economic policy.

Superficially, the traditional prejudices about the North-South divide seem well grounded. The two worst-performing regional economies, Scotland and the North East, suffer the typical unholy trinity of a large manufacturing sector, high unemployment and low GDP per capita. In London, the South East and South West, this position is reversed, with these regions posting the strongest growth rates last year and increasing their economic lead over the rest of the country.

Yet a closer examination of the data suggests that this regional divergence is not quite so straightforward. Scotland's underperformance — and Business Strategies is predicting it will remain mired in recession this year — is out of proportion



to the size of its manufacturing sector. Scotland's manufacturing sector constitutes 23 per cent of its economy — far higher than London's 9 per cent — but below the level of manufacturing in six other regions which have all performed better. Scotland seems to be suffering because of the mix in its manufacturing — a high proportion of textiles and computing hardware — which has had an unexpectedly negative impact on its service sector.

The North East has a typical

large manufacturing sector acting as an overall drag on its economy, but it also recorded the country's highest financial and business services sector growth rate at 12.7 per cent last year. The East Midlands, however, seems to have overcome the handicap of a large manufacturing sector — about 28 per cent of the economy — to record a healthy 3.2 per cent growth rate last year. The region has a large concentration of engineers — such as Rolls-Royce in Derby — which

seemed to have fared better during the manufacturing downturn, while cities such as Nottingham and Northampton have profited from London services overspill.

Another traditional manufacturing centre, Yorkshire and Humberside, also recorded a solid growth rate of 2.6 per cent last year. Its overall performance, however, concealed a marked divergence between the increasingly service-oriented Leeds area and York's successful pursuit of

high-tech start-ups compared with the still depressed regions of South Yorkshire. The unspoken assumption, however, remains that the manufacturing north needs to be freed from the straitjacket of southern rates. Scotland, in particular, has a strong case for arguing that it has a European-style economy, including at 55 per cent the lowest level of home ownership in Britain, which needs the lower rates of the single currency area.

Yet the complex reality of

the regional economies suggests finding an "ideal" regional interest rate is likely to prove no less difficult than setting a single national rate. Nor is it clear that the difference in regional inflation rates justify different rates. While house price increases, which range from 1.7 per cent last year in the North East to 12.2 per cent in post-treasury Northern Ireland, seem to support the case, estimates of the divergence in inflation rates are far less stark. Business Strategies suggests headline inflation last year was in a relatively tight range between 2.2 per cent in Scotland and 3.5 per cent in the eastern region — hardly a simple boom and bust divide.

Nor is it certain that lower rates will prove the necessary cure. As the British Chambers of Commerce noted last week, the problem for manufacturers is not the cost of borrowing but the pound, which remains stubbornly high despite the Bank's rate-cutting spree.

More fundamentally, it is questionable whether short-term monetary policies can reverse the long-term trends within the economy. An examination of the demographic trends suggests there is a close relationship between population growth, low manufacturing output and high economic growth.

This is the legacy of the last time the South outperformed the rest of the country heavily, during the 1980s boom. Higher growth rates and better job prospects inevitably attracted workers, especially the mobile young, to move south. These migrants have now settled and had families, boosting population growth and ensuring a healthy young/old mix that suits the service sector. This in turn boosts growth and the circle begins again.

Reversing this trend is akin to trying to turn a supertanker.

never seen it before. My picture shows how the development would have looked but for the subsequent attentions of the Luftwaffe and the 1950s school of architecture.

It was found by Peter Bennett, a London antiques dealer, at a house clearance auction. He now hopes to sell it to Land Securities or Hammerson, the two property companies redeveloping the site.

Bennett says that the painting, the work of Joseph Stradler, an engraver, dates to 1812 and is valued at more than £25,000. It is the only known depiction of the scene. The church is St Martin's, which survives to this day and will take pride of place in the new development.

Bull market

BELLOW is Birmingham's unlikely Bull Ring as you have never seen it before. My picture shows how the development would have looked but for the subsequent attentions of the Luftwaffe and the 1950s school of architecture.

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MARTIN WALLER

citydiary@the-times.co.uk

Regional assistance plans, such as the trend of competing for call centre jobs, can alleviate some of the pain, but they do not provide the kind of critical mass necessary to improve the long-term growth rate.

Attracting and keeping high earners — who are now heavily concentrated in the services sector — is the real key.

In this sense, the experience of London provides hope. It is often forgotten that only two decades ago, London was still the country's prime manufacturing city. The transition to a services-led economy has proved painful and London still suffers from higher than average unemployment. But after years of losing population, the capital is enjoying an influx of fresh immigrants attracted by good job prospects and strong cultural and leisure services. There are signs that cities such as Leeds, Manchester, Glasgow and Bristol are beginning to foster similar conditions. It is in this subtle process, rather than the quick-fix simplifications of monetary policy, where the future of the regional economies lie.

Only the unemployment data is supplied on a regional basis monthly by month. This data is sufficiently detailed that unemployment can even be measured by parliamentary constituency, ensuring that MPs can keep abreast of the job prospects of their constituents. By contrast, the most recent breakdown of GDP figures dates from 1996, while the regional home-ownership figures are positively prehistoric, lying from the last great housing downturn in 1993.

Individual private organisations have moved to try to fill the gap. Both Halifax and Nationwide supply monthly house-price data, although they use a slightly different regional breakdown to the Government's standard divisions. Business Strategies produces more timely and reliable estimates of regional GDP performance. The economics group even has a stab at local inflation rates, although it admits its own figures — derived from survey evidence rather than real prices — can be no more than a best estimate.

An increasingly devolved nation requires improved regional data. But just who is going to meet the considerable extra costs of providing reliable statistics will prove an interesting battle of wits between the regions and the centre.

Regions suffer from statistical breakdown

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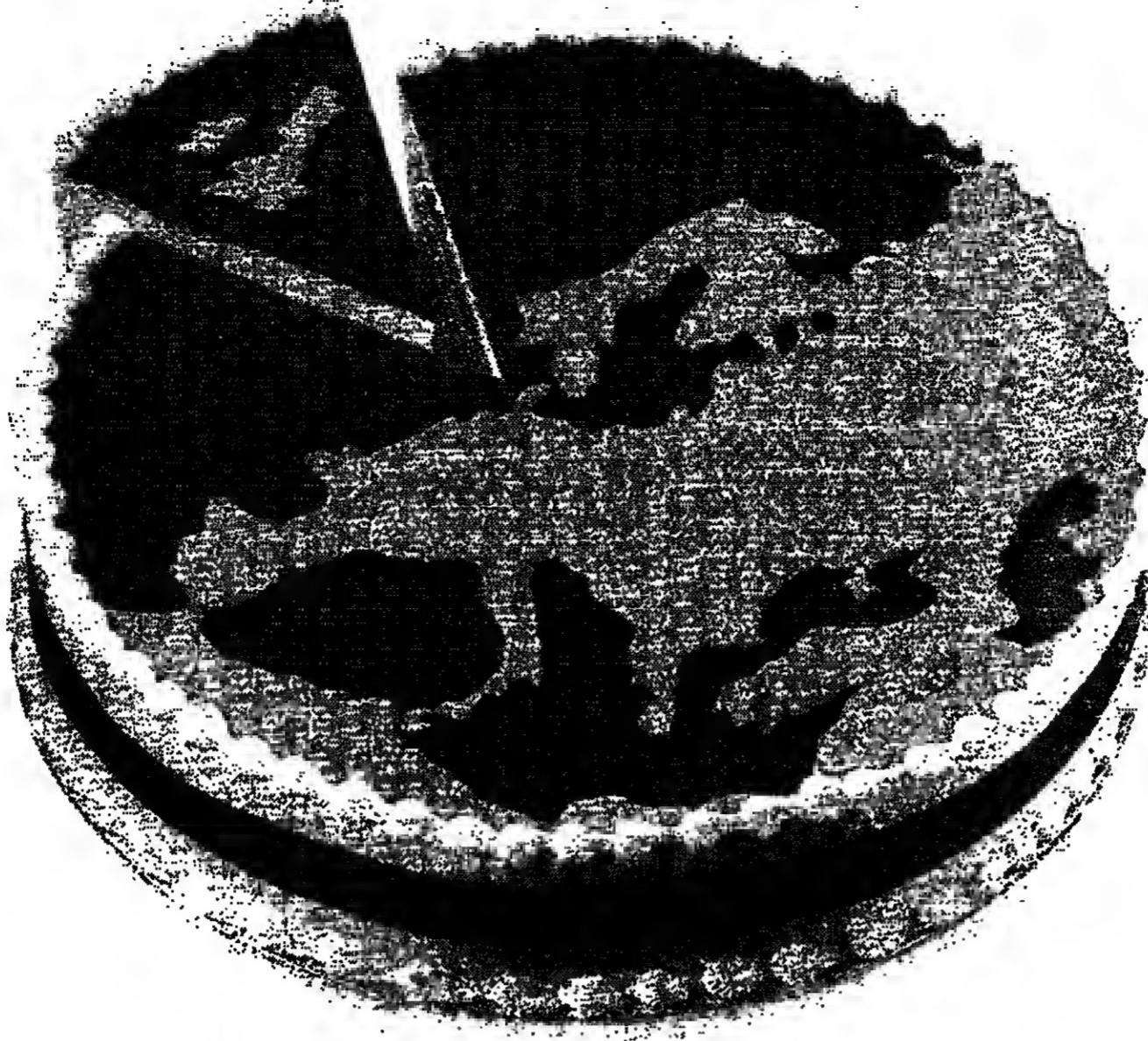
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One other vital part of the jigsaw —



Fancy a bigger slice of the cake?

The UK boasts some of the most accomplished food and drink producers in the world.

Yet a surprisingly large number are still entirely dependent on the UK for their business.

And it's not getting any easier, with the never-ending tussle over shelf-space and margins in our overcrowded Island.

A case of too many eggs in one basket.

But lack of familiarity with overseas markets, retailers, distribution logistics and, at the simplest level, language, can deter even the most aggressive of marketeers.

Where, then, can they turn for this essential help?



Food from Britain: Helping you to hit the ground running

Food from Britain is the UK's leading international food and drink marketing consultancy, with the objective of helping British food and drink producers develop new markets overseas.

Ours is not a consultancy of fine talking theorisers, but an intensely practical one.

All our people are commercial professionals working out of their own offices in all the major European countries, North America and Japan, with detailed knowledge of their local markets.

We can help you pinpoint opportunities, supply you with market data and make the key introductions to trade partners and buyers.



We can help you with trade shows, publicity and promotions.

In a nutshell, we'll help you build your business abroad.

The world is your oyster... or tea bag...soup...cereal...

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to realise that the rest of the world represents a bigger potential market than the UK, a genuine opportunity both to grow sales and spread risk.

In fact, the value of UK food and drink exports has doubled in the last decade and now stands at around £10 billion. Hardly surprising given the innovation, imagination and drive that characterises so many UK food and drink producers.

Just to quote from our own portfolio, we have helped UK companies sell breakfast cereal to the Spanish, preserves to the U.S., chilled soups to Belgium and France and drawstring tea bags to the Japanese. In total, we are working with nearly 1000 companies.

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Knowledge. Know-how. Contacts.

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Contact Simon Waring, Marketing Director, on 0171 468 8555 or Andrea Ng,

International Development Director, on 0171 468 8571.

Website: www.foodfrombritain.com



Building your business abroad



How you could be a landlord

Instead of waiting for savings rates to go up, some investors are buying to let. Rachel Kelly reports on the costs, profits and pitfalls of letting.

THE COSTS

Property: Two-bedroom flat, Fulham, London SW6
Purchased price £240,000
Commission 5% £12,000
Gross profit £7,000
Net profit £2,000
Costs: Stamp duty 5.5%; Stamp duty before funding £12,123
Loan interest 6.5%; Stamp duty after funding £2653
Loan to value 50%
Interest on loan £12,480
ACQUISITION COSTS
Purchase price £240,000
Stamp duty @ 5% £12,000
Commission 5% £12,000
VAT @ 17.5% £1,025
Legal expenses £1,000
Local agent fee £100
Structural survey £600
VAT @ 17.5% £77.50
Refurbishment costs £5,000
Furnishing £10,000
Total costs £259,034
INCOME
Gross rent £20,800
Void allowances £3,233
Refund £1,067
Administrative
Service charge £2,750
Ground rents £250
Insurance (contents) £200
General maintenance £200
Utility costs £75
Contract fees (inc VAT) £88
Letting fees @ 10% £1,907
VAT @ 17.5% £344
Management fees @ 5% £953
VAT @ 17.5% £137
Total expenditure £25,024
Surplus available for finance £13,433
Interest on loan £12,480
Annual net yield 6.69%

If you are serious about playing the property market and making money, it may not be enough just to speculate on your own property: why not buy a second house or flat, too?

"Buy-to-let" investments have boomed as the volatility of world stock markets in recent months has led many to search for investments that offer better returns. Here are the numbers, simply put. Such investments offer the chance of an annual rental income of more than 7 per cent, and a 5 per cent annual rise in the value of the property. Such returns beat most of the best investments in shares.

Of course, the detailed figures are more complicated and reflect all the hidden extras of buying a property. Experts say that the Association of Residential Agents (Arla) and the banks that offer buy-to-let mortgages are not warning investors about the costs of letting property. Nick Jopling, from Allsop & Co, says: "There should be a healthy warning on buy-to-let mortgages to make investors aware of issues such as voids (empty homes), management fees, maintenance costs and insurance. All this adds up to about 25 per cent of the investor's gross yield." [See box on costs.]

Gross yields vary from 8 to 10 per cent, depending on the location and type of property. Net returns are 5 to 7 per cent, enough to fund an interest-only mortgage of up to 80 per cent of the value of the property because interest rates are so low. Rates as low as 5.5 per cent are now available, a far cry from 8.5 per cent just a year ago, and banks and building societies are clamouring to lend on such properties.

In less than three years, banks and building societies have lent more than £1.7 billion through buy-



Buy-to-let: James Barnes outside the three-bedroom, former council home he bought to let in Wandsworth, southwest London

to-let schemes. Only last week, the Halifax Building Society launched a scheme through its specialist mortgage lender HMSL So, too, did Paragon Mortgages.

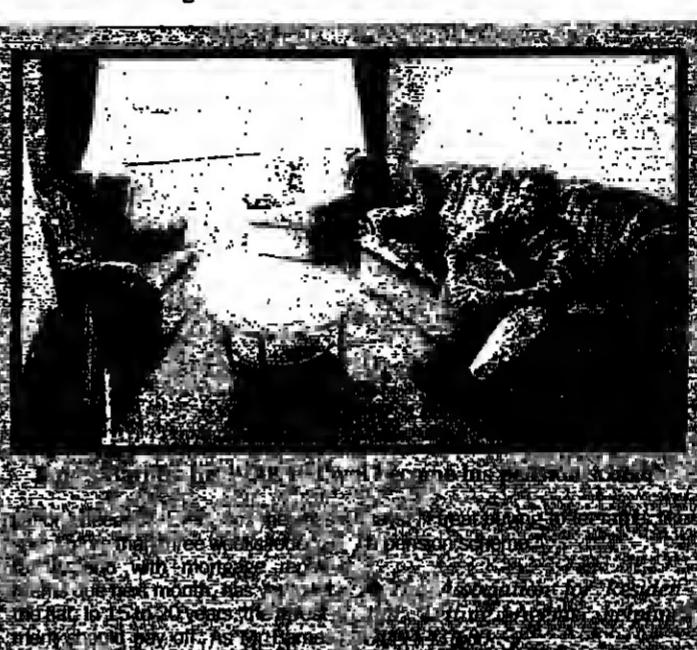
George Humphries runs the buy-to-let department of Hamptons International. "The total returns from buy-to-let are between 9 and 11 per cent, significantly higher than alternative investments. Housing seems a sensible option, and not just because of falling interest rates. The ratio between house prices and earnings now stands at about 3.3 per cent – in other words, the price of a house is roughly three times the annual salary. This should produce a sustainable relationship between house prices and average annual earnings."

Of course, such investments must be made with caution. As Malcolm Harrison, from Arla, says: "Buyers must be prudent in their choice of area and property. Don't base preference on personal taste, and it is important to contact a letting agent to discover if the area has a healthy letting market and what kind of properties are in demand."

The London Housing Federation estimates that 100,000 new homes are needed within London, which is good news if you have bought a home to let out. A shortage of afford-

CASE STUDY

James Barnes, 36, from Wandsworth, southwest London, bought a three-bedroom former council home for £125,000. It is a two-storey semi-detached house with a garden, garage and parking space. It is in a good area with a local pub, a shop and a school. Mr Barnes has a job as a software engineer and is saving for a deposit on his next home. He is letting the property through a letting agent.



able properties must eventually push prices and rental values up. The problem here is that agents have reported an oversupply of properties at the top end of the rental market in Central London but not enough in other parts of the city. Investors need to find those ar-

eas where there are shortages of rental property. Andrew Reeves, a letting agent, says that the London suburbs are a better bet for buy-to-let, or even further out to places such as Bromley and Beckenham, which have good communications with the West End and the City.

High returns depend on a buoyant lettings market, which is threatened if too many jump on the buy-to-let bandwagon. And ultimately, the ease of obtaining buy-to-let mortgages, may saturate the market and force letting values down. Grab your moment.

Who pays the price of an empty property

People living near Britain's 750,000 empty homes are plagued by arson, vandalism, theft and drug abuse. The National Week of Action, organised by The Empty Homes Agency, started on Monday with publication of a survey which highlighted their distress.

These properties can also seriously reduce the value of the homes around them. The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors says 10 per cent of the value of a house can be lost. Ashley Horsley, chief executive of the agency, says: "Empty homes are the real neighbours from hell. In the North of England the numbers constitute a ghost town of the size of Sheffield. London's is the same size as the entire housing stock of Haringey."

"All but two of the 42 councils we surveyed have received regular complaints about the problems of empty homes. Crime apart, there are environmental and health and safety problems, among them vermin, fly-tipping and dangerous structures. Empty homes can also be a death trap for children."

This week the agency will highlight the good use to which some of the organisations and individuals have put these houses, including examples from Bury, Leeds, Manchester and Sefton.

Mr Horsley says: "Through sale or rent they can be a valuable source of income to their owners, and they can provide an alternative to B&B accommodation for the homeless. Putting them to use can lift neighbourhoods."

The action week started in Merseyside with the launch of a scheme by the Liverpool Housing Trust, which has worked with the city council and a private developer to transform a council estate. At the end of this week in Birmingham, the agency will name organisations and individuals across England which have contributed to keeping homes empty. Mr Horsley says: "It is a scandal that so many houses stand unused at a time when 100,000 are homeless each year."

BEN WAKEHAM

• The Empty Homes Agency: 0171-826 6288

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BAYSWATER: Two-bed, 4th floor, 1 bed, 1 bath, 1000 sq ft, £125,000.

CHELSEA: JEROME'S: 2 bed, 1 bath, 1000 sq ft, £125,000. Tel: 0171-222 7630.

ELM PARK: Gardens SW10. Newly decorated 2 bed, 1 bath, 1000 sq ft, £125,000. Tel: 0171-222 7630.

HORNSEY: Specious 2 bed, 1st fl, 1 bed, 1 bath, 1000 sq ft, £125,000. Tel: 0171-222 7630.

MARSHALLS: SW10. Recently refurbished 2 bed, 1 bath, 1000 sq ft, £125,000. Tel: 0171-222 7630.

THE DUCHESS OF BEDFORD: House, 2 bed, 1 bath, 1000 sq ft, £125,000. Tel: 0171-222 7630.

ST JAMES'S CHAMBER: south-facing 1 bed, 1st fl, 1 bed, 1000 sq ft, £125,000. Tel: 0171-222 7630.

NO TIME TO FIND YOUR NEW HOME? THE LONDON HOMESWEEK AND WWW.0171-2221110.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

BAYSWATER: Two-bed, 4th floor, 1 bed, 1 bath, 1000 sq ft, £125,000.

ALBERT HALL: SW10: 2nd fl, 2 bed, 1 bath, 1000 sq ft, £125,000. Tel: 0171-222 7630.

MAYFAIR: SW1: 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 1000 sq ft, £125,000. Tel: 0171-222 7630.

MAYFAIR & ST JAMES'S: A good selection of 1 bed, 1 bath, 1000 sq ft, £125,000. Tel: 0171-222 7630.

MAYFAIR & ST JAMES'S: A good selection of 1 bed, 1 bath, 1000 sq ft, £125,000. Tel: 0171-222 7630.

ST JAMES'S: Charming south-facing 1 bed, 1st fl, 1 bed, 1000 sq ft, £125,000. Tel: 0171-222 7630.

NOTTING HILL: SW10: 2 bed, 1st fl, 1 bed, 1000 sq ft, £125,000. Tel: 0171-222 7630.

PORTOBELLO: W11: 2nd fl, 1 bed, 1000 sq ft, £125,000. Tel: 0171-222 7630.

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WEYMOUTH: SW10: Bright specimen 2 bed, 1 bed, 1000 sq ft, £125,000. Tel: 0171-222 7630.

WIMBLEDON: SW19: 2 bed, 1000 sq ft, £125,000. Tel: 0171-222 7630.

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WIMB

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THEATRE

Lionel Bart's
Fings gets a
timely revival

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ARTS

OPERA

Saucy Semile
— the ENO's
new Handel

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VISUAL ART: A Cumbrian barn was the unlikely setting for Kurt Schwitters' final creation. Richard Cork reports

Pioneer's last wall and testament

Partially paralysed after two strokes, Kurt Schwitters was in no condition to embark on a big project in 1947. A lung haemorrhage warned him in July that his body should not be over-taxed. But the 60-year-old exile refused to give up.

With heroic obstinacy he started to transform the interior of a stone-walled barn in the Lake District. Sleeping most of each day in order to gain strength for a three-hour bout of intensive work, he stubbornly declared that the barn would become "the largest sculpture I have ever built".

Schwitters' tenacity may have been reinforced by the urge to compensate for the fate of his two previous building-sized works. The earliest, spreading through the rooms of a house in his native Hanover, had preoccupied him for 14 years during the interwar period. He called it the Merzbau, and surviving photographs suggest that its proliferating chambers were indeed his masterpiece. But the house was obliterated in a 1943 air raid, and Schwitters was further mortified by his inability to complete a second Merzbau in a studio in Norway. He had moved there in 1937, after the Nazis branded him as a "degenerate" artist and removed his work from museums. But the invasion of Norway in 1940 forced him to escape to England, leaving the unfinished Merzbau which children accidentally destroyed when playing with matches.

Schwitters found life arduous in wartime London. He settled there after a 17-month internment mostly at a camp on the Isle of Man. A few English artists and critics recognised his stature as a European master of collage and a restless pioneer of multi-media experimentation. But when he moved to Ambleside in 1945 the ailing artist could easily have despaired of ever working on a grand scale again.

With admirable resilience, however, he refused to give up. Schwitters was used to displaying the humblest of scavenged materials, and even the most rudimentary "building" could ignite his imagination. So when he befriended the landscape architect Harry Pierce, who lived in the nearby village of Elterwater, Schwitters became excited by the prospect of renting a barn on Pierce's land. A well-timed \$1,000 award from the Museum of Modern Art in New York enabled him to pay the annual rent of £52, and he started a construction on the barn's end wall.

Schwitters saw it as a three-year commitment to turn the whole interior into a cave-like work "better and more logical than anything I have ever done before". Within a few months, though, he became desperately weak. Travelling from Ambleside each day to labour in the winter chill of the barn, where water soon began

to stream across the floor, defeated him. Delirious and desolate, he died in January 1948.

The Merzbau, as Schwitters called it, remained unfinished and grew increasingly vulnerable to damp and decay. By 1963 a drastic decision was arrived at in order to preserve the construction on the end wall; it would be removed from the barn. Schwitters would have been horrified by the idea. He had conceived the wall as part of an elaborate environment. The barn, in turn, inhabited a Great Langdale valley that had undoubtedly nourished him as he built up the organic forms on the relief.

But nobody seemed capable of protecting it, and none of the institutions approached by Pierce would take responsibility.

Even the Tate declined to purchase it.

The apathy seemed to bear out Schwitters'

suspicion that "English people don't understand art at all".

Only Newcastle University, armed with some money for a sculpture commission, took advantage of the opportunity. Acting on the advice of Richard Hamilton, then a lecturer at Newcastle, it undertook the hazardous and costly task of moving the relief to the university's Hatton Gallery in 1965. The relief's safety was assured, and it has been preserved there ever since.

But what meaning could this isolated wall have,

wrenched from the Lakeland context that brought it into being? For many years the Hatton made scant effort to display this extraordinary fragment sensitively.

Only now has a special exhibition been mounted, in collaboration with the new Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, to celebrate the Merzbau and show some of Schwitters' other work.

The show ranges from early work in a Cubo-Expressionist idiom to later examples of his deft, inventive ability to use everyday detritus. The principal emphasis, though, rests on his 1940s work. He painted a lot in those difficult years, executing some naturalistic portraits often dismissed as potboilers. They are, in truth, and sincere attempts to achieve a like-

ness. But even the most affectionate portraits of his lover Edith Thomas seem tame compared with the vigour of his landscapes. Schwitters allies himself here with a German tradition extending back to Louis Corinth's impulsive views of the Walchensee 20 years before. Despite limitations, Schwitters' landscapes convey the ardent energy of his response to the natural world.

In this respect, they enhance our understanding of the far more mysterious and original work carried out in the Merzbau. As he grew older, Schwitters' link with city life evaporated. The interior of his Hanover house, the so-called Cathedral of Eroic Misery, had been filled with bristling, anxious references to the psychic

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Enough of the dry-stone wall remains visible to suggest that Schwitters respected its flinty presence, even as he covered its surface with a plaster skin. It became the seed-bed where a disparate array of found objects were planted.

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LISTINGS

RSC's new Othello

ARTS

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 1999

THEATRE

Whitehall's echoes of war

Classic clown magic

Hackney Empire's Year of the Clown season got its first dose of the old silent magic from the hyperactive Catalonian Leandre. Promising clowns must be a hideously difficult task. The very word evokes a cruel mish-mash of curmudgeonly old sods who have spent their life on the road with a moth-eaten animal show, or awful wacky New Age juggling types who escaped from Steiner school at the age of 14 but still believe children should be given the freedom to torture nuns so long as they are expressing themselves. Leandre is none of the above; he is more like the beautiful building that you find after getting lost and then waste the rest of your life trying to get back to — the lost domain of the clown world.

Of course, he knows that we

don't know what he is going to be like, so when he comes on stage with a mournful demeanour, and does a staid little mime with two suitcases and a questionmark stuck to his head, the laughter is polite. Eventually he rips off his questionmark and launches into full rapscillon mode and the relief is palpable.

Leandre skates through a whole catalogue of styles and characters but his enduring performance trait is to step ever-so-slightly over the line of accepted behaviour, doing the kind of things that we would all do if the rest of the world's back were turned: spitting from a great height and throwing bits of banana at people.

Of course, this being a post-Freudian show, Leandre is authentically pueril as opposed to knowing to accepted notions of childish behaviour: which means pee, poo and sex organs a-go-go. Interestingly, the episode when he seems to have crossed too far over the line metamorphoses into the most magical part of the show.

There are two more abstract elements of his performance that are worth commending. First, his rapport with the audience, which was extraordinary given that he was performing in a country where audiences are famous for being participation-phobic. And secondly, the absolute beauty of his movements, which were so smooth and beguiling that he often resembled one of those films of people taking their clothes off played backwards.

Although Leandre is evidently suitable for adults he is also family entertainment in the real sense; a show that you can take very bad-tempered 13-year-olds to and they might actually thank you afterwards.

NIGEL CLIFF

HETTIE JUDAH

Peter Hanly, John Lloyd Fillingham and Eleanor Bron in Oxford Stage Company's timely revival of Robert Holman's *Making Noise Quietly***Collaterally damaged**

Walking down Whitehall after seeing Robert Holman's *Making Noise Quietly*, I passed Serb demonstrators blowing whistles and waving flags outside the Defence Ministry, and it struck me how weirdly appropriate this revival is. When the Oxford Stage Company decided to launch a London season with a long-forgettable trilogy about the side-effects of war, it could hardly have foreseen that British bombs would be exploding in the Balkans on the day of its opening. Yet off they go — and who can say how odd and intricate their ultimate impact will be?

Drop a big, heavy object into a pond, and tiny ripples end up in unpredictable places. In Holman's view, it is the same with war. In *In Being Friends*, which occurs in 1944, a conscientious objector decides to join the army, not because doodlebugs are landing near by but because he cannot forget seeing a badly tortured German die in a military hospital. In *Lost*, a Yorkshire mother hears that the naval officer son who had rejected her has been killed in the Falklands. And, in the title play, a German-Jewish businesswoman, once the victim of concentration camp sadism, warily befriends a veteran of the South Atlantic, an angry, bitter English private with his deeply disturbed stepson in tow.

The very name *Making Noise Quietly* sums up Holman's plays. They have always been unemphatic, unpretentious, yet resonant. From *German Skirties* in 1977 through *The Estuary* in 1980 to *Making Noise Quietly* in 1986, they have confounded mathematical logic by persuading you that less is more. Hitherto Holman has found his home on the fringe, never in the West End; it is a surprise and, for me, a joy to find so representative a trio ensconced beneath Nelson's Column — and, in Deborah Bruce's sensitive production, implicitly reproaching that triumphal edifice.

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There are obvious links between the plays. All their characters have been touched and transformed by violence and suffering. All would seem to communicate more deeply with strangers than with those who know them better. But I must admit that reacquaintance with the trilogy leaves me most enthusiastic about its first two-thirds. *Being Friends* is finely played by Peter Hanly and John Lloyd Fillingham, in which Bron struggles to bring conviction to a Holocaust survivor earnestly trying to civilise a feral child and his almost equally troubled stepfather. Yet here too there is plenty of deft human observation, most strikingly in Fillingham's powerful portrayal of an inarticulate soldier who cannot stop himself taking out his self-hatred and rage on the pathetic boy he loves and who loves him. Here too Holman's distinctive qualities — that spare richness, that astringent abundance — leave us with drama quietly to relish.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE**THEATRE**

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Return to Bart land

Like many of his plays, *Lost* is set in Holman's native Teesside, which may be why it seems psychologically truer than *Making Noise Quietly*, in which Bron struggles to bring conviction to a Holocaust survivor earnestly trying to civilise a feral child and his almost equally troubled stepfather. Yet here too there is plenty of deft human observation, most strikingly in Fillingham's powerful portrayal of an inarticulate soldier who cannot stop himself taking out his self-hatred and rage on the pathetic boy he loves and who loves him. Here too Holman's distinctive qualities — that spare richness, that astringent abundance — leave us with drama quietly to relish.

to, but then so are the characters. Steve Edwin is sound as the tough-but-vulnerable Fred; Phil Hearne is leery as the completely artless dodger Redhot, and Tony Hunt gets the marinet plot and monotone boom of the clodish Sergeant Collins. As particularly good voice were Diana Croft as the put-on barmaid Lil, and Liz Marsh and Nina Lucking as lovable tarts Betty and Rosey, squealing away à la Barbara Windsor (for it was our Babs who was the original Rosey). The star turn, though, is Carol Sloman as a raddled whore whose every painful step is an agonising odyssey. She had the audience in such hysterics that they drowned out much of the show. The cast are sweetly directed by Bob Carlton.

The piece itself has its moments, though in Frank Norman's words book many of them are drawn out far too long, especially in the protracted second half. But when Bart's bright, breezy songs take over, things bawdily merrily along. Their performances are rooted in pan-

NIGEL CLIFF

HETTIE JUDAH

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■ POP

Tom Petty returns in style

ARTS

■ CONCERTS

King's goes Russian

Heaven on earth with a satin doll

Robert Carsen's staging of *Semele* was the last operatic throw of the old regime at the Aix festival in 1996. It would be difficult to think of a more stylish way in which to exit. ENO had the wit at the time to book it as a co-production and it arrives at the Coliseum very much as it was then, complete with the luscious Rosemary Joshua more secure than ever in the title role.

The first act is still a bit stodgy as Semele takes her time deciding between a royal marriage on earth and the luxuries Jupiter is offering in heaven. Once she sees that a little social climbing is within her grasp, with a possible move from mortal to god, everything changes. Handel stops writing an oratorio and opts for a bawdy comedy, reflecting the gimlet eye of Congreve's libretto for the follies and foibles of the day.

Carsen suggests in a series of delicately pointed stage jokes that nothing much has changed over the years. The royals have their weaknesses, chief of which are greed and lust, and the gods — or super-royals — suffer from just the same faults. According to Congreve the way of the gods was much the same as the way of the world.

Rosemary Joshua's Semele is a blonde tramp, whose only real asset is her body and whose only aims are endless pleasure, as she states in her Act I aria, and a seat among the planets. She spends much of the evening in fetching satin underwear, and at one point nothing at all, while she indulges Jupiter. The vocal flow is just as uninhibited, with silvery roulades tumbling out into the Coliseum. The Mirror aria, *Myself I shall adore*, was especially brilliant. Baby Doll meets one or two coloratura so-

OPERA
Semele
 Coliseum

pranos who had better not be named.

John Mark Ainsley plays Jupiter as a balding boss intent on having his pie on the side, not for the first or the last time to judge from the reactions of Juno (Susan Bickley, an all too recognisable regal figure in head scarf and welly boots). Jupiter may send Semele to her death when her demands become excessive, but before then he sings with great tenderness. Every phrase of *Where'er you walk*, taken very slowly and quietly, had the patrician shaping once given it by Heddle Nash.

The supporting cast is uniformly excellent, led by Sarah Connolly's warm-voiced Imoister of Semele, and just about the only sympathetic character in the piece. There are sharp impersonations from Iris Kelly as Juno's hobbly-skirted secretary, the Miss Moneypenny of the spheres. Graeme Danby's Sonnus is a pantaloons straight from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a sharp reminder that Britten's opera is the only other Carsen production seen at a major London house.

Carsen suggests in a series of delicately pointed stage jokes that nothing much has changed over the years. The royals have their weaknesses, chief of which are greed and lust, and the gods — or super-royals — suffer from just the same faults. According to Congreve the way of the gods was much the same as the way of the world.

Rosemary Joshua's Semele is a blonde tramp, whose only real asset is her body and whose only aims are endless pleasure, as she states in her Act I aria, and a seat among the planets. She spends much of the evening in fetching satin underwear, and at one point nothing at all, while she indulges Jupiter. The vocal flow is just as uninhibited, with silvery roulades tumbling out into the Coliseum. The Mirror aria, *Myself I shall adore*, was especially brilliant. Baby Doll meets one or two coloratura so-

JOHN HIGGINS



A god can Handel the goods: Jupiter (John Mark Ainsley) is intent on making the earth move for Semele (Rosemary Joshua) before the affair turns less than heavenly

Petty-minded people

POP

You need rhino skin if you're gonna begin to walk through... this world, sings Tom Petty on his new album with the Heartbreakers, *Echo*, released this week. In a 23-year recording career the band have developed just such a hide, the better to repel the somewhat malcontent reviews that have greeted the record in the UK.

Echo is the first album credited to the band in eight years, but the Heartbreakers have always been central to Petty's creativity. When he makes supposedly solo records, they play on them, which is a bit like taking the mother-in-law on holiday. The new set is accused of being rooted in some time-

locked rock nirvana, its face set sternly against any whiff of contemporary influence. So what you get, and the fans who have stayed with him in an up-and-down British career, got the chance to see at close quarters on Monday evening. The band's stock has taken a tumble here since the days when they could play five nights at Wembley Arena, as

Glyndebourne, its face set sternly against any whiff of contemporary influence. So what you get, and the fans who have stayed with him in an up-and-down British career, got the chance to see at close quarters on Monday evening. The band's stock has taken a tumble here since the days when they could play five nights at Wembley Arena, as

they did in 1992. But if the net result is the opportunity to see them in a club environment, and if Petty can continue to pocket Grammy awards for fun, then neither band nor audience will complain.

Thus we embarked on a 150-minute exploration of Petty's back pages, in a relaxed show that also borrowed a few leaves from other volumes. They started with Chuck Berry's *Around and Around*, and proceeded to pick up favourite old playthings like a child running in a toybox.

The set list was a delightful join-the-dots of their own landmarks, such as *Breakdown*, *Runnin' Down a Dream* and the rarely-performed *Don't Do Me Like That*, and of those they have loved. J.J. Cale's *Call Me The Breeze* and the Everly Brothers' imprint of *Lucille* were among those in the Heartbreakers' jukebox, and an instrumental workout by lead guitarist Mike Campbell was still wet with the spray of Californian surf classics by the likes of the Chantays.

American Girl was delivered not with the nervous energy of the original but as an acoustic sketch, and for one of the encores Petty turned the ubiquitous *Gloria* into a story song. To say that they sometimes played a little too comfortably within their capabilities would be to miss the point of a band that feels no further need to justify itself by scrambling up unknown terrain.

PAUL SEXTON



Happy to be rocking and rolling: Tom Petty at the Empire

London's likely lads

Another Level had no control over the events that conspired to make them the top turn in London last Saturday night, Paul Sexton writes. The DJ title bout between Falboy Slim and Armand Van Helden fell victim to the Brixton bomb, while Paul Heaton of the Beautiful South, who always talks a good fight, was struck hoarse and unable to enter the ring at Wembley. But the improved billing for the London quartet was in keeping with their rapid rise through the card in the past 12 months.

With a hoard of hits in the locker since *Be Alone, No More* made the first of two chart sorties in February last year, the group had rescheduled and upped their debut British tour to accommodate ticket demand, and there was never a suggestion that they were fighting above their weight. As underlined by an audience dominated by pubescent girls, their success has been channelled through a se-

sied by the soul bubblegum of *Goody Goody*, due to feature on their second album later this year.

By then, they may well have a second chart-topper to display next to last summer's *Freak Me*. The well-connected group have the first single, Diane Warreño's *From The Heart*, from the forthcoming Julia Roberts-Hugh Grant picture *Notting Hill*. It is a suitably romantic lead guaranteed approval from their fan base.

Be Alone, No More closed the main set in singalong fashion, and after an unambitious encore version of Simply Red's *Holding Back The Years*, there was a sharper edge to *Summertime*, written for them by hip-hop notable TQ and due to launch them in the US next month. *Freak Me*, the bump'n'grind chart-topper appropriated from the Atlanta soulsters Silk, was triumphant. If Another Level can export London soul to the States, sales of numby slack in Newcastle may yet be viable.

But their Top 40 sensibilities are more up-front than those of such urban figureheads. Another Level came to the attention of pop crowds as the opening act on Janet Jackson's last European tour, and their keen ear for crossover was emphasised by the soul bubblegum of *Goody Goody*, due to feature on their second album later this year.

They entered to a stage layout reminiscent of that used by visiting champions Dru Hill a few weeks ago, with a seven-piece band doing sterling work in the shadows. Setting off with *I Want You For Myself*, their convincing vocals and harmonies easily shared, they had the swagger of Lotharios, fashioned from the mould of such kings of the heartstrings as Boyz II Men and Keith Sweat.

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Rodney Hobson introduces a four-page report on the UK awards for export, technological and environmental achievement

Battle cry as magnificent few fly flag

The Prince of Wales has launched a campaign to revive the Queen's industry awards in the wake of a slump in applications.

Only 765 companies applied this year for the Queen's Awards for Export, Technological and Environmental Achievement, the smallest total since the awards began in 1966.

Despite the disappointing fall in the number of applications, the quality of aspiring companies has held up well. The total of 101 winners out of 765 nominations, 13.2 per cent, is well above the usual success rate. Last year awards went to just under 11 per cent and in 1997 to only 7.8 per cent.

This year all the environmental award winners have tasted success for the first time and 30 winners across the board had not applied before.

But all three categories registered the lowest level of interest to date. The 520 Export applications marked only the second time that the total for this category had slipped below 700.

The Technology tally at 163 was 44 fewer than last year, itself the previous low point. Nominations for Environment fell below 100 for the first time, compared with 240 applications when this section was introduced in 1993.

The Prince of Wales was asked by the Queen to chair a committee of business people and senior government officials to review the awards.

The awards, made each year on the Queen's birthday, April 21, were originally launched during a balance of payments crisis. There was also a new awareness of technological change. Harold Wilson, then Prime Minister,

spoke of the "white heat of technological revolution".

Applications built up to a peak at 1,860 in 1978. On average, there have been about 1,000 applications for the export awards, 300 for technology and just under 150 for the environment. Roughly one applicant in ten succeeds.

Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, announced just before Christmas that, at Buckingham Palace's suggestion, there should be a review of the scheme this year with any recommendations taking effect next year.

Roger Watson, secretary to the review committee, says: "The awards have been on something of a downward trend — technology because of the shrinking defence markets and exports because of the strong pound. The way forward may well be to broaden the environmental award beyond mere technological innovation to reward good environmental management."

There is not enough awareness of the awards among consumers. Their real value at present is between business competitors. They need a higher profile."

The committee will make its recommendations in June. In the meantime companies can still express an interest in the year 2000 awards with the Queen's Awards office so that application forms can be sent out as soon as they are available.

This year, smaller companies in particular are still showing interest, reflecting the growth of the small business sector in the UK economy. Crambene Allen Publishing, which produces technical periodicals on steel making, refining and petrochemicals, has



only eight employees. So does UK Project Support, a Norwich-based recruitment agency for the offshore oil and gas industry.

Brunton's Propellers and its 11-strong workforce at Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, enjoy a technology award while Corney & Barrow (Broker Services), a wine broker, has a staff of 12, although it is part of a larger group.

Another encouraging sign is the increase in applications from the financial services sector. It forms a third of the export winners, twice the usual proportion.

There are two double award winners this time. Digital Engineering of Belfast, a computer company, and Snell & Wilcox, a broadcasting and telecoms manufacturer at Petersfield, Hampshire. Both win export and technology awards.

SILLY string and coloured hair do not win many awards, but GAC (UK) Ltd, based at Cwmbran in Wales, has won a Queen's export award by exporting the party spirit. Christopher Warman writes.

Aerosols of silly string, temporary hair-colour in the most eccentric of shades and glitter sprays are exported to more than 30 countries, accounting for 90 per cent of the company's £10 million turnover last year. By far the largest export market is the United States, followed by France and Germany.

GAC has more than doubled its production during the past three years and

it expects a bumper year this year as people prepare for millennium parties. "We are having difficulty meeting demand," says Stefan Volcke Jr, marketing director of the parent company Goodmark. "At any given moment, a party is going on somewhere in the world. We provide people with products that can be used for any festive occasion, from Christmas and new year through to carnivals, birthdays and weddings."

More than 30 million cans of silly string were produced last year, enough to circle the globe 60 times.

BUPA International

Winner of

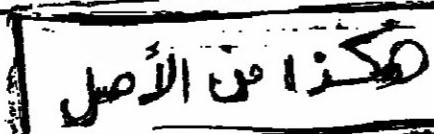


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Hi-tech approach to exports

Only two firms have won double awards this year. Digital Engineering, a telecoms equipment maker at Mallusk, Belfast, and Snell & Wilcox, broadcasting equipment specialist at Petersfield, Hampshire, both take an export and a technology award, and are now recognised as world leaders in their respective fields.

Digital Engineering, set up in 1983 by Aubrey Sayers, the managing director, with backing from Ledu, the Northern Ireland organisation that supports small businesses, has only 30 employees yet has more than trebled exports in the past three years. It makes equipment that telecoms companies can use to test or demonstrate

their own products and to train staff. It won the technology award for a product that simulates ISDN high-quality telephone lines.

The Emutel ISDN simulator has

been a big seller worldwide since it was introduced in 1993. There are five versions, ranging from the smallest, which can be used in exhibitions, to larger ones for use by manufacturers to test their products.

A new product, the Arcaplex, which enables users to split one high-capacity ISDN line into 15 low-capacity channels, has already brought a £2 million order from Austria.

Digital Engineering exports more than 80 per cent of its output. Caroline Scott, the sales and marketing executive, says: "Sales have held up well despite the strong pound and are growing strongly in Europe. We have 40 distributors in 30 countries and we are always looking for new markets."

Snell & Wilcox has now picked up eight awards over the past nine years. This time the technology accolade is for its Prefix product, which improves the quality of television pictures before they are transmitted.

David Cunningham, the marketing executive, says: "Prefix cleans up the picture by removing extraneous noise before the picture is compressed for transmission. The British have a reputation for being good at investing in technology only to have others exploit it. We like to think we do both."

The benefits of Prefix are not only better pictures but significant cost savings. Clear pictures occupy a narrower transmission band than dirty ones, and bandwidth is expensive.

Snell & Wilcox, established in 1974, now has a 500-strong workforce worldwide. Exports have grown by 81 per cent over the past three years.

Mr Cunningham says: "We have been studying digital television for 11 years so we already have products to address this rapidly emerging market. We have not been badly affected by the strong pound or the economic turmoil in Asia. Even if there is recession, people will still watch TV."

RODNEY HOBSON



Digital Engineering's Aubrey Sayers with one of the company's products

Help to fight superbugs

Tony Dawe on innovations from bacteria detection to asthma inhalers

Health scares caused by the *E. coli* bacteria and *Cryptosporidium* may be on the way out thanks to ChemScan, the world's first bacterial detection system to provide results within minutes rather than days. ChemScan, developed by the Technology Partnership of Royston, Hertfordshire, is capable of detecting a single cell of microbial contamination using a revolutionary method that needs no multiplication and incubation.

The breakthrough is one of several in the medical field to feature in this year's Queen's Awards for Technological Achievement, announced today.

Contamination of food and drinks by *Cryptosporidium* and *E. coli* can kill or cause severe illness, yet, until the invention of ChemScan, both were detected mostly after people had fallen ill.

Dr Christopher Graeme-Barber, the firm's marketing director, says: "Samples would be taken when people went to their doctors with an upset stomach, but it would take days to get the results and discover if they were suffering from something more serious. ChemScan is a laser scanning system capable of detecting within minutes a single living bacteria in a cup of liquid."

Innovations must achieve commercial success to win a Queen's award — ChemScan is now used by many British water companies and by food, drinks and drugs firms. It is expected to raise the purity of



The directors of Serck, Ian Dugan, David Woolley and Christopher Teed, inspect the exhaust-gas cooling system

water and mass-produced food dramatically in the next millennium. The system has also been used in hospitals to check for cancer cells and viral infection.

Minnnows and giants of the medical world are among other award winners. Immunodiagnostic Systems, which employs 27 staff in Tyne and Wear, gets a prize for the development of medical test kits for finding vitamin D in blood samples.

The immuno-separation process is faster and more sensitive than other methods. A hundred samples can be analysed in two days: using alternative methods, it will take three days to analyse a maximum of 24 samples. The absence of vitamin D can cause rickets, while the presence of

bone loss from osteoporosis. Dr Roger Duggan, the company's managing director, says:

"The kit is now our biggest selling product. Vitamin D plays an important role in the absorption of calcium which leads to strong bones and teeth in children."

Glaxo Research and Development has invented a new method for delivering asthma drugs. Accuhaler is a multi-dose dry-powder inhaler. It delivers a precise dosage and, because it is easy to hold and use, is suitable for both children and adults.

Acordis Speciality Fibres of Coventry and ConvaTec Ltd of Desides, Flintshire, share a joint award for developing AQUACEL Hydrofibre wound dressing. The dressing forms a gel which covers the surface of the wound by

moulding itself over the contours, ensuring that the wound remains moist. The gel prevents the dressing from sticking to the wound and so makes removal less painful.

A further common theme among the technological awards are innovations which make contrasting forms of transport quicker, more efficient and environmentally friendly.

Brunton's Propellers of Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, wins an award for a sailing boat propeller which alters its pitch to suit the conditions. The pitch of the blades, which can swivel through 360 degrees, is set solely by the action of hydrodynamic and centrifugal forces which reduce fuel consumption, engine noise and vibration and make the boat travel faster. Autoprop has been fitted to 2,500 vessels.

An exhaust-gas cooling system might not sound the most exciting of developments, but the product from Serck Heat Transfer of Birmingham deserves its award because it has already been fitted to many diesel-powered cars, making them cleaner and reducing both fuel consumption and emissions.

David Woolley, director of Serck's exhaust-gas cooling division, says: "We have had the satisfaction of seeing the system adopted by many of the world's leading manufacturers including BMW, Ford and Volkswagen. To date half a million units have been installed and there has not been a single failure."

Acordis Speciality Fibres of Coventry and ConvaTec Ltd of Desides, Flintshire, share a joint award for developing AQUACEL Hydrofibre wound dressing. The dressing forms a gel which covers the surface of the wound by

simulators that emulate different country variants of ISDN telephones worldwide.

Glaxo Research and Development Ltd, Greenford, Middlesex: Diskus multidose dry-powder inhaler.

Telecom Systems Division of Hewlett-Packard Ltd, South Queensferry, West Lothian, Scotland: HP accessS7 — the standard for SS7-based network monitoring and data-mining in telecoms.

Immunodiagnostic Systems Ltd, Boldon, Tyne & Wear: Determination of vitamin D in human serum & plasma.

The Technology Partnership plc, Royston, Hertfordshire: ChemScan RDI for microbial detection and identification.

Zeneca Agrochemicals, Haslemere, Surrey: AMISTAR fungicide.

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Greeks offer inspiration

One of Northern Ireland's oldest companies has won the Queen's Award for Export Achievement for the first time, with a product inspired by the white marble quarried on the Greek island of Paros.

Established in 1857, Belleek Pottery of Co Fermanagh is a manufacturer of fine Parian china giftware, pictured left, and tableware that has seen significant export growth in recent years.

In 1993 Belleek reported export sales of £1.3 million as part of an overall turnover of £3.57 million. By 1998, export sales had risen to £4.08 million and turnover to £6.42 million. During that time the workforce has grown from 120 to 200.

Belleek Pottery, whose sister companies are Galway Irish Crystal and Aynsley China, exports Parian china worldwide, with key export markets including America, Canada, the Caribbean, duty-free areas, France, Italy, Australia, the Middle East and Russia.

John Maguire, Belleek Group's managing director, says the company has invested considerable time and money in getting to know its export market customers and in responding to their specific needs with new product development. "The expansion of the group to include Galway Irish Crystal and Aynsley China has also brought us a wealth of additional export expertise," he says.

CHRISTOPHER WARMAN



Boat prop saves fuel

AN ingenious boat propeller earns a technological achievement award for Brunton's Propellers of Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, one of the smallest firms among the winners, with 11 employees. Christopher Warman writes.

The company has developed the Autoprop, an automatic variable pitch marine propeller which alters its pitch to suit the operating conditions of the vessel on which it is mounted.

The blade pitch is set by the action of the hydrodynamic and centrifugal forces to offer much higher efficiency over a wider range of operating speeds than can be achieved by conventional fixed propellers.

This action results in higher vessel speeds, reduced fuel consumption and lower emissions into the environment.

QUEEN'S AWARD FOR EXPORT ACHIEVEMENT



Agercko UK Ltd — Manufacturing, Dumbarion, West Dunbartonshire: Generators and oil-free air compressors.

Akos Healthcare Group Ltd, St Albans, Hertfordshire: International healthcare consultancy and contract services.

Allen & Overy, London: Legal services.

Beardow & Adams (Adhesives) Ltd, Milton Keynes: Hot melt adhesives.

Belleek Pottery Ltd, Belleek, Co Fermanagh, Northern Ireland: Parian china giftware.

British Aerospace Airbus, Filton, Bristol: Airbus airliner wing design and manufacture.

BUPA International, Brighton: Private medical insurance.

CRP Print & Packaging Ltd, Corby, Northamptonshire: Flexographic printing of packaging items.

Cambrian Consultants Ltd, Usk, Monmouthshire: Geoscience, engineering, training and software expertise to the oil and gas industry.

Cambridge Pharma Consultancy Ltd, Cambridge: International management consultancy to the pharmaceutical industry.

Caterpillar (UK) Ltd (Telesales Division), Desford, Leicestershire: Telehandlers.

H. Charlesworth & Co Ltd, H. Charlesworth & Co Ltd, a member of The Charlesworth Group,

Huddersfield, Kirklees: Typesetting and printing of scientific journals.

Colortrac Ltd, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire: Large-format digital colour scanners.

Compagraphics International Ltd, Glenrothes, Fife: Photomasks for the semiconductor industry.

Corney & Barrow (Broker Services) Ltd, London: Fine & rare wines.

Crambath Allen Publishing, Craven Arms, Shropshire: Technical periodicals.

Crystaloft Ltd, Wantage, Oxfordshire: Crystal growth equipment.

Data Connection Ltd, Enfield, Greater London: Communications and networking software products and software engineering services.

Digital Engineering Ltd, Malusk, Belfast, Northern Ireland: Apparatus for developing and testing of telecommunications equipment.

Dorset Cereals Ltd, Dorchester, Dorset: Breakfast cereals.

Drock Ltd, Grahay, Leicestershire: Electronic pressure measurement devices, pressure calibrators and aircraft ground support equipment.

Durham Associates Group Ltd, Castle Eden, Co Durham: Training in business administration.

Dytech Corporation Ltd, Sheffield: Catalysts and ceramic materials.

Edinburgh Business School, Edinburgh, Scotland: MBA distance learning courses.

Element Communications Ltd, Shaftesbury, Dorset: Sale of books and intellectual rights.

Elmar Services Ltd, Aberdeen, Scotland: Design, manufacture and rental of oilfield equipment.

Equisys plc, London: Zetafax corporate fax software.

EuroFinance Conferences Ltd, London: Conference, exhibition and training course organisers in international cash and treasury management.

Euromeny Publications plc, London: Financial publishers and conference organisers.

Evans & Sutherland Computer Ltd, Horsham, West Sussex: Visual flight simulators.

The Financial Times Ltd, London: Newspaper publishing and advertising.

Fine Fragrances & Cosmetics Ltd, Hampton, Richmond upon Thames, Greater London: Toiletries and cosmetics.

GAC (UK) Ltd, Cwmbran, Torfaen, Wales: Aerosols for parties, celebrations and decoration.

Hill Price Davison Ltd, London: Computer software and services.

Holtom Machinery Ltd, Bournemouth, Dorset: Holton Conform continuous rotary extrusion machines.

John Horsfall & Sons (Gresford) Ltd, Halifax, Calderdale: Airline blankets.

Mccormick Europe, Conditioning Division, Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland: Conditioning and seasonings.

Motorola Ltd GSM Systems Division, Swindon, Wiltshire: Cellular radio telephone equipment.

PAF International Ltd, London: Investment management.

Ilmor Engineering Ltd, Brixworth, Northamptonshire: CART and Formula One Mercedes-Benz racing engines.

Getty Connections Ltd, Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland: Cable assemblies and general equipment wire.

Glenmorangie plc, Broxburn, West Lothian, Scotland: Malt and blended Scotch whisky.

Guralp Systems Ltd, Aldermaston, West Berkshire: Seismometers.

H.D.A. Forgings Ltd, Redditch, Worcestershire: Specialist forgings.

Heatrite, a Division of Meggett (UK) Ltd, Poole, Dorset: Highly compact printed circuit heat exchangers (PCHEs).

M4 Data Ltd, Wells, Somerset: Data storage devices.

The Macallan Distillers Ltd, Craigellachie, Moray, Scotland: Highland malt Scotch whisky.

MacDuff Shellfish (Scotland) Ltd, MacDuff, Aberdeenshire, Scotland: Fresh and frozen shellfish.

McCormick Europe, Conditioning Division, Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland: Conditioning and seasonings.

Motorola Ltd GSM Systems Division, Swindon, Wiltshire: Cellular radio telephone equipment.

Owen Mumford Ltd Medical Division, Woodstock, Oxfordshire: Sterile medical disposables for capillary blood sampling and delivery systems for self-administration of injectable pharmaceuticals.

Nikwax Ltd, Wadhurst, East Sussex: Waterproofing preparations for footwear, clothing, outdoor and equestrian equipment.

Innovative Tooling Solutions, a division of Forth Tool and Valve Ltd, Glenrothes, Fife, Scotland: Specialised machine tooling for controlled boring operations.

Oldham City Airport Ltd, Oldham, Lancashire: Airport services.

Lowe Refrigeration Company, Cheadle, Cheshire: Rental and sale of refrigerated display and storage equipment.

Pilkington Micronics Ltd, Deeside, Flintshire, Wales: M4 Data Ltd, Wells, Somerset: Data storage devices.

Riddings Ltd, Derbyshire: Refractory mould materials.

Stannah Stairlifts Ltd, Andover, Hampshire: Electrically powered stairlifts.

Charles F. Stead & Co Ltd, Leeds: High quality suede leather for the shoe trade.

Svitzer Ltd, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk: Seabed and sub-surface surveys for the oil and gas industries.

Technical Absorbents Ltd, Grimsby, Lincolnshire: Manufactured superabsorbent fibre.

Thermastool Europe Ltd, Basingstoke, Hampshire: High-frequency welding and annealing equipment and high-speed shears.

Trans Euro plc, London: Global move management, worldwide corporate relocation services, fire-safe secure storage and freight forwarding.

UK Project Support Ltd, Norwich, Norfolk: Specialist technical contract personnel.

University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST), Manchester: Research, teaching and technology transfer.

Walkers Shortbread Ltd, Abberlour-on-Spey, Moray, Scotland: Shortbread.

Woods Air Movement Ltd, Colchester, Essex: Mechanical ventilation equipment.

Specialist Refractory Services Ltd, Riddings, Derbyshire: Refractory mould materials.

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An airport is the surprise export winner on the day that the aircraft industry celebrates landing the top awards. Tony Dawe reports

How aviation soared to fresh heights

A viation companies feature prominently among the contrasting industries that have picked up prizes in the Queen's Awards for Export Achievement announced today.

Aircraft manufacturers, engine repairers and companies providing comfort for passengers and essential instruments for the planes are all recognised, but the most surprising export winner is an airport.

Noise restrictions, the lack of rail links and the initial sluggish pace of Docklands development all helped London City Airport to run up huge losses in its first years. Today it is booming with a dozen European airlines serving a score of destinations. International carriers, including Air France, Alitalia and Lufthansa, fly into the Docklands airport bringing passengers who spend money in its shops and cafés and on travel in the capital.

"With more than half of the passengers travelling via London City being resident in Europe, we have created a significantly increased contribution to the UK's invisible earnings," says Richard Gooding, the airport's managing director. "These awards are not given lightly and to be the first air-

port to win one is a great achievement."

A more predictable winner is British Aerospace for its work on the Airbus, the most successful European co-operation in building passenger planes. The Airbus began life as a twin-engined aircraft with limited range, but a series of models is now being built, including the four-engined A340-500 with a range of 9,000 miles.

Exports have almost doubled over the past three years and the company is also studying a Super-jumbo capable of carrying up to 650 passengers.

The 2,000th Airbus will be completed shortly. British Aerospace has made the wings for all of them, employing 7,500 directly, although a total of 62,000 people are involved in the project throughout the UK.

The award for export achievement also goes to a company that overhauls aircraft engines for more than 70 airlines. Based in Nantgarw,

South Wales, GE Aircraft Engine Services has boomed since it was bought from British Airways by General Electric, the American engine manufacturer. The company has trebled the number of airlines it serves and exports have doubled, reaching £275 million — more than 40 per cent of all revenues, last year.

James Barrett, the deputy chairman, says that while BA remains its largest customer, the Queen's Award provides national recognition for "making this a global business with global reach".

Passenger safety might be the company's main concern, but passenger comfort is the prime reason for the success of John Horsfall & Sons of Halifax, which wins the award for the second year running.

The company, founded in 1863 to make blankets, carried on business successfully until the 1970s when the popularity of duvets undermined the market. It moved on to providing blankets for the airline industry.

The airline business has

grown until it has become the most important for us," says Peter Benson, the managing director.

"We make everything from a very economic flame-retardant mod-acrylic blanket to the most luxurious lambswool ones, as well as headrests, pillows and duvets for first-class sleeping cabins."

Completing the list of aviation winners is Druck of Groby, Leicestershire, that makes products ranging from pressure sensors through to sophisticated aircraft ground-support equipment.

The company exports to more than 60 countries and has won important contracts from the US Army and Navy for test sets used to calibrate aircraft instruments such as altimeters.

average cost savings of 45 per cent, enabling users to recover their investment within a year.

ICL Syntex business was formed last year by the merger of three of its branches with the catalyst businesses of Crossfield and Unichema purchased from Unilever. The headquarters are at Billingham, Cleveland.

It wins an award for the development of its HYDECAT process for treating waste sodium hypochlorite, a by-product of chlorine use or manufacture. Waste treatment produces sodium hypochlorite, a toxin which the HYDECAT catalyst converts into a salt solution and oxygen. No chemicals are needed, and the threat to the environment is eliminated.

Emil Process Systems, of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, wins an award for the development of a wood pulp effluent and water recovery system which eliminates all discharges.

The system recovers all suspended and dissolved solids in the form of a dry "cake" which can be fed as fuel into a boiler, while the liquid is purified for re-use in the manufacturing process.

The fifth award goes to Zeneca Metal Extraction Products, of Blackley, Manchester, for the development of a new magnesium-based process used to manufacture a chemical for extracting copper from waste ore.

The new technology is claimed to reduce effluent components by some 85 per cent.

Almost all its business is for export, and the combined earnings of product sales and development projects have more than doubled over three years. Its main markets are in America and Western Europe.

Reaching for the sky: British Aerospace has been rewarded for its work on the Airbus. Its exports have almost doubled over the past three years

Technical Absorbents has also won its first Queen's Award, after receiving the Humberside Exporter of the Year Award last year. This

company, established in 1994, is based in Grimsby and employs 20 people. Technical Absorbents Ltd has doubled its exports over the past three years.

It manufactures Oasis Fibre Superabsorbent, which has a wide variety of applications, from health and hygiene uses, to the cable industry and food

industry.

BUPA International, part of the BUPA Group, based in Brighton, West Sussex, has also received a Queen's Award.

Founded more than 25 years ago, it is the UK market leader in international private medical insurance, and now has members in 180 countries.

BUPA International gives customers a choice of cover based on their circumstances, and the opportunity to decide the country and the hospitals in which they are treated.

On the rise: Stannah Stairlifts is celebrating its third award

Stannah Stairlifts, based in Andover, Hampshire, is a veteran of the Queen's Awards, winning its third this year. The company, part of Stannah Family Holdings, has increased its exports by almost £11 million over the past six years and has established 12 new markets.

Richard Heath, the sales and marketing director, says:

"We sell this fibre for use in a range of hygiene applications, from adult incontinence to medical dressings. Bandages need to be changed less frequently, reducing disturbances to the wound and also reducing costs."

Oasis fibre is also used in food packaging, for example the soaker pads at the bottom of sealed plastic trays containing fresh meat or poultry. The fibre boosts the pad's absorbancy, says Mr Heath, locking in the liquid and so improving the hygiene and the presentation of the product.

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Drink a toast to a tartan success story

Scotland's food and drink producers have done the nation proud, writes John Young

There is a distinctly Scottish flavour to this year's awards in the food and drink sector, with four of the six winners coming from north of the border.

Nestling among the famous Speyside distilleries is a bakery established by Joseph Walker just over 100 years ago to serve the needs of the village, which has since grown to be the country's leading manufacturer of shortbread.

Although it is still jointly run as a family business by the founder's three grandchildren, James, Joseph and Marjorie, it employs about 600 staff and exports nearly half its annual output of some 10,000 tonnes to more than 60 countries, including America, Australia, France, Chile and Russia.

This is its third export award, following successes in 1984 and 1988. "It is a reflection on everyone in the company from the shop floor up, and we think it is rather special because it is rare for a bakery to win an award twice, let alone three times," says James Walker.

The firm also markets a range of Duchy Original biscuits made from organic wheat and oats harvested on the Prince of Wales's Home Farm at Highgrove.

Another family firm, MacDuff Shellfish, of Aberdeenshire, wins an award for the first time. Exports from its two factories, both of which have won awards from the Sea Fish Industry Authority, have more than doubled in the past three years.

Its main markets are France and, increasingly, Portugal, Spain and Germany. Principal products are langoustines, scallops and crabs, all caught in local waters and supplied to supermarkets, wholesale groups

and specialist traders. "Selling to the French has been quite difficult," says John Beaton, the managing director.

One of the two English companies on the prize list is Dorset Cereals, of Dorchester, which is winning an award for the first time. Founded only ten years ago, the company exports high-fibre breakfast foods and mueslis to 47 countries in Europe, the Middle East, the Far East, North America and the Caribbean, in total accounting for half its sales.

It has exhibited at international food fairs in London, Germany and Russia, and works with the Department of Trade and Industry to promote language learning for businessmen.

Scotch whisky has long been a significant contributor to Britain's export trade, and two of the best known malts are included in this year's awards.

The Macallan Distillers, of Craigellachie, Banffshire, has been honoured for the fourth time. Between August 1996 and August 1998 exports rose from 54 per cent to 61 per cent of total turnover, despite intense competition in the luxury market.

Glenmorangie plc, of West Lothian, which exports to more than 100 countries, wins its first award.

Although Britain is not yet a significant producer of wine, the well-established merchants Corney & Barrow, in the City of London, have won a second successive export award as a broker of fine and rare wines imported mainly from France and sold on to other countries.

Much of the wine comes from private customers' reserves which have been stored in the firm's cellars since they were first shipped.



First-time award winner for exports: Glenmorangie chairman Geoffrey Maddrell has a celebratory dram inside the company's warehouse bottling plant in Broxburn, Scotland

Shellfish from Scots waters go to Spain, France and Portugal

London's importance as an international financial and legal centre has helped two large City law firms to win awards for exports. They are Allen & Overy with more than 1,500 staff and Norton Rose with about 1,200.

In the past ten years several London law firms, like their foreign counterparts, have become more internationally minded and there are now half a dozen leading British firms that practise all over the world.

Allen & Overy has 20 offices that practise local law in many countries, but Bill Tudor John, the senior partner, says: "British invisible exports, of which law is one, are an important earner for the country and law firms are quite significant contributors to export earnings. English law has become a highly exportable product. Many international contracts between foreign partners will specify English law and English courts because there is an enormous respect for the impartiality of our judiciary."

Worldwide demand for English law and courts boosts invisible exports

Mr Tudor John adds: "We doubled the size of our firm in the past five years and that growth has been mainly overseas."

"When I took over as head of the firm in 1994 only 7 per cent of our people were based outside the UK. Now it is 34 per cent and within a short time, probably two years, more than half our lawyers will be based abroad."

Formed in 1930, Allen & Overy provides legal advice to businesses, financial institutions, governments and individuals on banking, corpo-

rate matters, international capital markets, litigation, tax, employment and pensions.

Export earnings come from all over the world, but the biggest markets are where the financial centres are in Europe, North America and Asia.

Allen & Overy has been advising financial institutions on their preparations for European economic and monetary union.

Mr Tudor John says European monetary union will bring more export gains for British law firms

even while the country stays outside the system. He believes it will encourage cross-border mergers and acquisitions, an area in which British law firms have experience and expertise. In anticipation, Allen & Overy plans to expand its presence in Paris and Frankfurt.

Norton Rose has been trading for more than 200 years and acts for international groups including sovereign states, banks and other financial institutions.

Senior partner David Lewis says:

"This award comes at the end of a

record year in which we have opened three new offices in Athens, Prague and Bangkok.

"We have always had a strong international client base. However, the rate at which our international work has grown recently is staggering. Over the last three years our London office has more than doubled the value of work conducted outside the UK. This work now represents more than 40 per cent of its business."

Work includes advising on shipping, oil and gas financing, cargo claims, aircraft leasing, project finance, privatisation, cross-border mergers, property and international tax issues.

Recent achievements include advising Texas Utilities in defeating US rival PacifiCorp in the bidding war for The Energy Group, the UK utility privatisation of the Romanian shipping industry; and the Bang Po power project in Thailand.

RODNEY HOBSON

A PROUD MOMENT



THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR EXPORT ACHIEVEMENT

We know it is unusual for a law firm to be presented with the Queen's Award for Export Achievement and that makes us especially proud to receive it.

But not too proud, we hope, to pass the moment without acknowledging those who have made it possible.

The partners and staff in our offices throughout the world whose knowledge and dedication have made us a premier international law firm.

And, of course, our ever-growing number of clients without whose support and loyalty this could not have been achieved.

Their success is a measure of our success.

In accepting the award we thank you all.



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GlaxoWellcome



WE'VE JUST WON OUR TENTH QUEEN'S AWARD FOR TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT



Asthma patients in many countries know why

Once again we are proud to announce that Glaxo Wellcome Research and Development has won the Queen's award for Technological Achievement.

This year it heralds the development of a novel dry powder inhaler which treats asthma patients in many countries.

Now with a tenth award under our belt we mean to push ahead, in our continuing quest to keep people healthy all over the world.

MAY

Climax to Premiership season
8 exclusively live matches
Sky Sports 1 and 5



JUNE

Cricket World Cup Semi's & Final
Sky Sports 1



JULY

England v New Zealand 1st Test
Sky Sports 1



AUGUST

Charity Shield plus start of the Football Season
Sky Sports 1, 2 and 3



SEPTEMBER

US v Europe Ryder Cup Golf
Sky Sports 1



OCTOBER

Super League Grand Final live from Old Trafford
Sky Sports 1



NOVEMBER

European Tour Golf Johnnie Walker Classic
Sky Sports 1 and 3



DECEMBER

South Africa v England 2nd & 3rd Tests
Sky Sports 2



JANUARY

FA Cup Rounds 4 & 5
Sky Sports 2



FEBRUARY

6 Nations Rugby Union England v Ireland
Sky Sports 2



Sky
SPORTS 1
SPORTS 2*
SPORTS 3
SPORTS NEWS

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*Exclusively in digital with SkyDigital

Schmeichel leads from the back

MIDWEEK VIEW



SIMON BARNES
Sports Feature Writer
of the Year



Diving force: Schmeichel shows the reflexes and awareness that keep him and Manchester United at the top of the game

Over the past eight years, he has been the best, the most consistent, the most influential player in the FA Carling Premiership. He has also been undervalued, underappreciated, misunderstood: but the hell with that. If people were to start understanding goalkeepers, the goalkeepers would have to find something else to do.

They give the awards to the outfield players, to the goal-scorers, and that is part of the way things are. A goalkeeper understands that and accepts it. His reward is the private knowledge of his own lonely contribution and the certainty that he is the one to be blamed when things next go wrong. Goalkeeper is not the position for a well-adjusted person.

If there was a moment when a season seemed to stop and turn on a sixpence, though, it was when Peter Schmeichel made that penalty save from Dennis Bergkamp last week, as Manchester United beat Arsenal in the FA Cup. A penalty save is the one fear for which a goalkeeper wins lavish praise and Schmeichel is the first to say that there is always a good deal of luck involved.

The fact, though, is that Schmeichel beat Bergkamp at football's great game of paper-scissors-stone. Intuition, homework and his own strong form will make the save happen: Schmeichel's correct guess, Bergkamp's placing the ball at the height that Schmeichel wanted.

Students of the goalkeeper's art know the save in the same match from Ronny Johnson's inadvertent deflection was, technically, a great deal harder. But in the drama of the penalty save, a goalkeeper, for once, is centre stage for something other than an error. The save told the team that the force was with them and Ryan Giggs's goal was a great

player's response to the massive contribution of his better.

Schmeichel's work this season has been all the more admirable for his indifferent form at the season's start. For most players, a run of poor form is mostly a private matter. A goalkeeper, by definition, is the lonely individual in a team game, yet his own poor form affects every other person in the side in the most direct fashion possible.

A striker who misses an open goal is embarrassed, but a goalkeeper who makes an error that leads to a goal is humiliated. A striker might get a second chance to score: a goalkeeper never gets a second chance to save it. It is the difference between a sin of omission and a sin of commission. A goalkeeper's errors are always in the second, more heinous category.

Schmeichel, though, turned his poor form around. His achievements, particularly in the European games — the

focus for Manchester United's most frenzied efforts — have been majestic, notably in the two matches against Internazionale and in the first against Juventus. He will need all that form and more, one suspects, in the second match against Juventus tonight.

Manchester United have been the dominant force in English football over the past

rarely have I known this moment myself, in my own goalkeeping days, smallest of small-time. And yet I shall never forget it, for it is one of the most intoxicating feelings in football. I can remember just one or two moments of seeing a striker come towards me with every advantage and seeing him all of a sudden look helpless, giving up before he

accused Peter Shilton of selling dummies to strikers. Shilton denied this. "But perhaps it seems like that to the striker," Schmeichel's ability also works in this impossibly rarefied way.

At its best, his talent is pre-emptive: the save is made before the shot is released. The save is the last resort, the third line of defence. The first is his vision and his command over the defenders in front of him, the second his own positioning and movement.

Many of the saves have been brilliant, but that is the fire-brigade stuff. His fire prevention is every bit as important and what he prides himself on most. Schmeichel leaves Manchester United at the end of the season. This will give great sorrow to all those who love the high and lonely art of the goalkeeper. He was never once made footballer of the year, as he should have been. He gets my vote of footballer of the decade instead.

'His greatest quality is certainty, shown most clearly in one-on-ones'

half-dozen seasons and Schmeichel has been the best player in the side. You can do a lot of breaking down of his talent: agility, reflexes, command of the air, timing, ability to delay commitment until very late. But his greatest quality is that of certainty, and that is shown most clearly in one-on-one situations. Very, very

has started. He knows that the keeper has got it right, that there is no route to goal.

That is what Schmeichel does on a regular basis at the highest possible level. He imposes a kind of moral authority on the game: the great saves are made not with his hands but with his aura. I remember that a striker once

Man in van with sporting world at his fingertips

Russell Kempson goes behind the scenes on a big night for ITV

Roger Philcox squeezes his portly frame into a swivel chair in the back of the darkened van at Old Trafford. A bank of screens flickers in front of him. Geneva control centre prattles away and New York is calling. Philcox twiddles a few knobs, chats back and takes stock, the world at his fingertips.

Suddenly, a flash of sparks lights up the gloom. The electric heater has blown up. Philcox pauses, startled, then kicks it. "When in doubt, use the technical approach," he said, laughing. On such moments does the smooth running of global television depend.

Philcox, 59, is ITV's technical producer, the man who ensures that sport's finest spectacles are transmitted without hitch to the pubs, clubs and living rooms of little England. "Our lords and masters buy the events," he said. "It's up to me to make sure the sound and pictures, from wherever in the world, get back to them. If we have to apologise for loss of either, I'm a failure."

With ITV the host broadcaster for the first leg of the European Cup semi-final between Manchester United and Juventus two weeks ago, about 60 countries, from Australia to Cyprus, took the live feed from 16 match cameras and in 30 languages. The Swiss-German

commentator may have fluffed his pre-match lines, his Russian counterpart mysteriously never made it to Old Trafford and Yugoslavia TV, predictably, had "operational" difficulties, but little went wrong. Tonight, for the second leg, a similar outcome is expected.

"We might not be the hosts, but problems can still arise," Philcox said. "We'll have a strange power supply and will need our own satellite uplink."

Philcox travelled to Turin yesterday among the advance guard of five vans and 40 personnel. ITV2, the fledgeling digital channel, also has to be catered for and is again showing live Bayern Munich against Dynamo Kiev as it irons out the glitches before its shared coverage of the rugby union World Cup this year.

Since the 1-1 draw in Manchester, Philcox has been to the Brazilian Grand Prix and spent five days in Holland and Belgium on a "reco" for the 2000 European championship finals. After this evening, victory or defeat for United, he will fly to Barcelona to check the venue for the European Cup final; then on to Budapest, for England's match against Hungary on April 28.

The jovial Philcox has traversed the globe "eight or nine" times in his 30 years in the business. He retires in July, technically, but will stay on in an advisory capacity. The walks with his dog, Bonnie, a 13-year-old corgi, around the Kent countryside, where he lives, will have to wait. "I enjoy the quiet, away from the broadcasters shouting at each other," he said.

"I'll shadow the new man for a while, hopefully teaching him a few things. If I'm as,

to get on the 0600 to Halli.

I'll say 'no', but if I'm wanted on the 10 o'clock to Rio, I'll go.

Euro 2000 finishes two days before my 61st birthday and then I'll sail into the distance."



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

One of the idioms you occasionally hear at the bridge table is that of "stripping a hand". This refers to a point of technique whereby you eliminate some of the suits from a hand, in order to reduce the options for a defender when he gets the lead. It may sound complex, but on the deal that follows Roselyn Teukolsky demonstrated a route to success by employing the technique perfectly.

Dealer West	Love all	Teams
♦ Q783 ♥ KQ5 ♦ 10 + A8873	N W E S	♦ K52 ♥ 984 ♦ KQ53 ♦ 1064
♦ Q783 ♥ KQ5 ♦ 10 + A8873	N W E S	♦ J984 ♥ 1073 ♦ 92 + KJ52
♦ A10 ♥ AJ82 ♦ AJ6764 + Q	N W E S	♦ A10 ♥ AJ82 ♦ AJ6764 + Q
Pass	Pass	1D
2C	3C	3H
Pass	3S	5D
All Pass		

Contract: Five Diamonds by South. Lead: ace of clubs.

Most players would have chosen to double rather than overcall with the West cards but it probably had no bearing on the final contract. Notice North's bid of Three Spades; having limited his hand at his first turn by the simple raise of diamonds, he had quite a respectable hand. The bid of Three Spades simply showed values in that suit, without committing the partnership to game.

As it happens, the auction persuaded West to lead the ace of clubs - a small slip which allowed declarer to make the contract, despite the unfavourable heart distribution. She ruffed the club continuation, played three rounds of spades, ruffing the

third, then crossed to a top trump in dummy to ruff her last club. At this point she drew the last trump, ending up in dummy. Now she led the nine of hearts from dummy, covered by East with the ten and declarer with the jack. That left West on play.

A heart return would give up the defence's trick there, and either black suit would allow declarer to throw a heart from dummy and cross-ruff the rest of the tricks.

Notice that on a passive spade lead declarer will probably win the ace and lead the queen of clubs from hand. It is easy for West to duck this and now a heart from East breaks up all the tension of the ending.

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KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Adams' triumph

The top ranked British grandmaster, Michael Adams, has scored the greatest triumph of his life by finishing first and undefeated in the elite tournament at Dos Hermanas, in Spain. Adams outdistanced both the reigning FIDE (World) Chess Federation, Anatoly Karpov, as well as two of the grandmasters regarded as likely challengers to Karpov's throne, namely Vladimir Kramnik and Viswanathan Anand. Anand had a particularly disastrous tournament, finishing in a tie for last place. This column has already published most of the wins by the top two players in the tournament. Today's game completes that selection.

White: Vladimir Kramnik

Black: Miguel Illescas

Dos Hermanas 1999

Dutch Defence

1 Nf3

2 e4

3 d5

4 Nc3

5 Bf4

6 Nf6

7 Bg5

8 Nc6

9 Nf6

10 Nxd5

11 e5

12 Ne4

13 Nf6

14 Rc1

15 e3

16 Oe2

17 f3

18 e4

19 b6

20 Qh5

21 Rfb8+

22 g5

23 h6

24 a5

25 Re1

26 c5

27 d6

28 Nd3

29 Nxe5

30 Rf1

31 Ng3

32 Rf5

33 Rf1

<p

Record of
Foulkes
is ready
to be
broken

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 1999

SPORT 53

FOOTBALL

Fowler to miss England's trip to Budapest

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

ROBBIE FOWLER'S season took another turn for the worse yesterday when it was announced that he would be unavailable for England's match against Hungary in Budapest next Wednesday. The Liverpool striker needs surgery to reset his broken nose, an injury sustained in an incident in a Liverpool hotel last weekend.

Fowler's domestic campaign has already ended, for after the 1-0 home defeat by Aston Villa on Saturday he began a six-match suspension, imposed by the Football Association, for his antics in matches against Chelsea and Everton.

At Stamford Bridge, he questioned the sexuality of Graeme Le Saux, the Chelsea defender, with a series of bizarre taunts. In the Merseyside derby at Anfield, he celebrated scoring a goal by stooping to "sniff" the white lines on the pitch. He was fined by his club and the FA also ordered him to pay a fine of £32,000.

Kevin Keegan, the England coach, had been expected to name Fowler in his party, especially as his options up front may be limited. When he announces his squad tomorrow, several players from Manchester United and Arsenal are likely to be absent, freed to concentrate on club duties as the FA Carling Premiership title race nears its climax.

If Ruud Gullit, the Newcastle United manager, had his way, Alan Shearer, the England captain, would be absent, too. "I have my own interests to protect," Gullit said yesterday. "If Kevin is willing to let players from the title-chasing clubs stay at home, what's the purpose of the game? Players like Alan have had a hard

Fowler: needs operation



Fowler: needs operation

World Cup and a hard season took another turn for the worse yesterday when it was announced that he would be unavailable for England's match against Hungary in Budapest next Wednesday. The Liverpool striker needs surgery to reset his broken nose, an injury sustained in an incident in a Liverpool hotel last weekend.

"I wouldn't consider asking him to pull out, and I'm not making any sort of threat over this, but I can't wait to talk to Kevin. If he had been in charge all year and wanted to use the fixture to bring on some fringe players, then it would be OK, but that's not the case. The reason for the game is to develop his strongest team. If players aren't going to be there, it becomes pointless."

Fowler appears to have been the innocent party in the hotel fracas and could still be considered for England's European championship qualifying ties against Sweden and Bulgaria in June. "He will go in for his operation on Friday," Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, said. "It will take another two or three days before he can start running."

The Scottish Football Associa-

tion (SFA) is likely to increase its number of random drug tests after the admission of Martin Neil, the Berwick Rangers captain, that he has taken cocaine, LSD and Ecstasy for the past 12 years and never been tested. Berwick are expected to announce today what course of action they intend to take against Neil, 29, who recently signed a new two-year contract.

Tony Higgins, secretary of the Scottish Professional Footballers' Association, said: "I'm sure that Neil's revelations will accelerate the number of random tests among players. The SFA make an assessment at the end of every season about the number of tests that have been taken. No numbers are made public but I'm certain the procedure will be stepped up."

"I'm sure Neil's case is a special one. However, it would be naive to think that some professional footballers don't take social drugs. Our message is quite clear: if you want to play professional sport, then don't take drugs."

Proposed changes to transfer regulations in the light of the Bosman ruling will not include allowing players or clubs to terminate contracts whenever they choose, Fifa, the world governing body, said yesterday.

"We are looking at the transfer regulations as a whole," a Fifa spokesman, Andreas Herren, said. "Fifa is looking to become European Union compatible but does not intend to touch the essence of the contracts. If a contract, out of mutual consent, is to be terminated unilaterally that is something between the parties — Fifa would certainly not institutionalise that."

With Andrei Shevchenko so quick on the ground and

so precise in his finishing — he has netted 17 goals in 26 European Cup games — those are not hollow words, but, if Kiev can lose control once, they can do so again, and Lobanovsky is distinguished if he says he does not fear Munich in their own Olympic stadium.

As with United, Kiev's test is one of heart and mind and sinew. While Alex Ferguson waits for medical guidance on Ryan Giggs' injured ankle, Kiev weigh up the gamble on the sore knee of Sergei Rebrov. He is the catalyst to Shevchenko and, in the eyes of some observers, Rebrov, with his uncanny ability to think for Shevchenko, is the

better all-round player. With Rebrov's small but crafty nature and Shevchenko's turbo-charged ability, the pair, in combination, can unhinge Munich's Lothar Matthäus and his two central pillars — Markus Babbel and Samuel Kaffour.

Rebrov should start the match come what may. Here, as in Turin, the judgment of the managers is critical. These are the times when the overambitious among them are tempted to ask key performers to take pain-killing injections.

Once they step over the line, the players have to

temper desire with care. Kiev have already agreed to sell Shevchenko to AC Milan and may feel that this is their best, if not their only, time to conquer the Continent. Again, if he says he does not fear Munich in their own Olympic stadium.

Bayern have 25,000 reasons to concentrate their minds. That, in pounds sterling, is the bonus that each player has been offered to reach the final. Matthäus may be 38, but the years drop away when money is on the table. He is such a winner, such a leader. "The European Cup is the best and the hardest competition to win in the world and we want it," he

said yesterday. Matthäus might have added "again" because he has been there before, with Borussia Dortmund.

Ottmar Hitzfeld, who is

again his mentor, having

coached that same Dori-

mund side to victory in the

European Cup two years ago,

said: "The 3-3 draw gives us an advantage. Maybe it's 51 per cent to us at this moment, but we must be careful."

Careful and concentrated

are the watchwords. Without

Bixente Lizarazu, the adven-

turous France left back, and

Giovane Elber, the Brazil

striker, Bayern might be two

taleots short of what it takes

to shock Kiev twice in a row.

Their counter-attacking

speed suggests that Kiev can

upset the odds and win on

the break and if Juventus

approach the tempo, the

thought and the movement

of their first hour at Old Traf-

ford in the first leg, a Kiev

versus Juventus final is, seem-

ingly, on the cards.



Rebrov, of Dynamo Kiev, is a key figure in his side's push for victory in the European Cup but may wane as his knee injury bites in the later stages

Kiev insisting they are fit to do battle

By ROB HUGHES

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Arsenal are in fine fettle for final furlong

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

IN THE end, they may still not be able to do enough to remove Manchester United's stony grip from the other leading prize that Arsenal might have to hand over to the Old Trafford empire next month.

But Arsène Wenger, Dennis Bergkamp, Patrick Vieira and the rest of North London's finest can look back with pride today on the performance that proved that the Double-winners of last season do not know how to accept second-best.

Overhauled Wimbledon, one of only three sides to beat them in the FA Carling Premiership this season, were devastatingly dispatched 5-1 at Highbury by a vintage show from the now

single-minded Arsenal. Five days after the despair of losing an FA Cup semi-final replay to their great northern foes, the air was filled again with the exaltation of the names of heroes.

SNOOKER: SIX-TIME WORLD CHAMPION MUST TURN ROUND 7-2 DEFICIT TO SURVIVE

Davis faces early departure

STEVE DAVIS, gracing the Crucible Theatre for the 21st year in succession, must dredge his reserves of determination to avoid immediate and ignominious elimination from the Embassy world championship in Sheffield this morning.

Davis, winner of the title on six occasions between 1980 and 1989, trailed Joe Perry, the world No 74, 7-2 after their opening session. It was reminiscent of the corresponding round in 1981, when Davis was astoundingly beaten 10-1 by Tony Knowles.

It began to go wrong for Davis in the second frame. Leading by 37 with only one red remaining, he kissed the pink into the middle

pocket in trying to escape from a self-imposed snooker. Perry cleared with 33 and salvaged the next, from a 61-0 deficit, with a 68 clearance.

The most startling error from Davis came in the fifth frame. Poised to steal it and reduce his arrears to manageable proportions at 3-2, he missed a straightforward blue to a middle pocket.

By now Perry was aware that Davis, at 41 the oldest competitor in the field, was struggling and piled on the pressure with breaks of 120 and 81 to move within three frames of progress on the unofficial Asian championship.

Motivated by national pride and with a keen sense that an opportunity had presented

BY PHIL YATES

itself to resurrect his ailing career, James Wattana disregarded comparative recent form to defeat Marco Fu in the first round.

Wattana, a former world No 3 who appears destined to be relegated from the elite top 16 in the rankings next season, rediscovered the ability to win under pressure with a 10-8 victory in a game billed as the unofficial Asian championship.

Consequently, Fu, the first player from Hong Kong to qualify for the Crucible, was the bookmakers' favourite. Indeed, they looked to have correctly assessed form when, after trailing 5-4 overnight, he took the lead for the first time at 8-7.

Doherty in the Thailand Masters, he received an anonymous phone call that instructed him to "lose or be prepared to die". Wattana lost.

In contrast, Fu has made quite an impact in his first full season on the circuit. He was runner-up to Stephen Lee in the Grand Prix; he has climbed from 37th to 39th in the world rankings and has already constructed 30 century breaks in competition.

However, Wattana won the sixteenth frame with a run of 62 and launched an otherwise exceptional 136 total clearance in the next by fluking the initial red. The Thai duly secured a meeting with Stephen Hendry or Paul Hunter in the last 16 by protecting an early run of 40 in the eighteenth.

Mark King will supply the opposition for John Higgins, the title-holder, in the second round, having recovered from 8-6 down to beat Darren Morgan 10-8.

LINKS
WEBSITE: www.embassy.snooker.com - official tournament site.
TELEVISION: BBC2, 1.10, 4.00, 6.45, and 9.30pm; BBC1, 2.30pm

MOTOR RALLYING

Bugalski kitted out for historic victory

FROM JEREMY HART
IN LLORET DE MAR

PHILIPPE BUGALSKI, a little-known Frenchman, held off the might of the world's leading rally drivers for a second successive day in the Catalonia Rally yesterday. The Citroën driver starts the final leg today, near Barcelona, with a 17-second lead from his compatriot, Didier Auriol.

"I didn't think I could hold off the world rally cars today," Bugalski, whose kit car weighs under 1,000 kilograms, said. The world rally cars all weigh more than 1,200 kilograms and have four-wheel drive.

The only drivers able to beat Bugalski over the six stages yesterday were Tommi Mäkinen, the world champion, and Colin McRae, of Great Britain. McRae started the day 30 places off the fight for first after a turbo problem on Monday and was using the stages for a test session, which ended with the car almost back to its best. "It's a big improvement on yesterday. I hope now that we will be on the pace in Corsica next month," McRae said.

Richard Burns, Britain's other leading driver, in a Subaru, was one of three drivers penalised for jump-starting a stage yesterday morning. Mäkinen, in fifth place, was also punished.

Only rain or mechanical failure will now stop Bugalski from making history and winning a round of the world championship in a kit car.

That prospect has the big teams in uproar.

LINKS
WEBSITE: www.eurosport.org - news, interviews and results.
TELEVISION: Eurosport, 9.30am-4pm (live)

EQUESTRIANISM

Tait chases elusive win

BLYTH TAIT, of New Zealand, the Olympic and world three-day event champion, heads a high-calibre field for the Mitsubishi Motors Badminton horse trials, which this year celebrates its fifth anniversary. Jenny MacArthur writes.

Tait, still seeking his first Badminton win, Mark Todd, the runner-up at Badminton and the world championships last year on Broadcast News, and Bettina Overesch-Böker, of Germany, on Watermill Stream, the individual silver medal-winner at the 1997 Open European championships, lead the foreign entry.

Christopher Bartle, the winner last year, Ian Stark, Kristina Gifford, Polly Phillips and Gary Parsonage are among the British contenders for the £27,500 first prize at the event from May 6 to 9.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 52
DELETORY

(c) Of the nature of criminal information or accusation. From the Latin *delatori* an informer, hated by Tacitus.

ENGIST

(a) To appoint the resting-places or lodgings in a journey. *Giste* means a resting-place.

ESCRIVAN

(b) A clerk on board a ship, a supercargo. From the Portuguese *escrivão*.

DEGLUBATE

(c) To flay or excoriate. The Latin means to flay. *De* equals off, and *glubere* is to peel.

WINNING MOVE

SOLUTION
1 Rd8+! Bxd3 2 Qd7+ Kb8 3 Qx7 checkmate

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Answers from page 52
DELETORY

(c) Of the nature of criminal information or accusation. From the Latin *delatori* an informer, hated by Tacitus.

ENGIST

(a) To appoint the resting-places or lodgings in a journey. *Giste* means a resting-place.

ESCRIVAN

(b) A clerk on board a ship, a supercargo. From the Portuguese *escrivão*.

DEGLUBATE

(c) To flay or excoriate. The Latin means to flay. *De* equals off, and *glubere* is to peel.

WINNING MOVE

SOLUTION
1 Rd8+! Bxd3 2 Qd7+ Kb8 3 Qx7 checkmate

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 1999

TELEVISION CHOICE

The science of cricket

Tomorrow's World
BBC1, 7pm

With the World Cup beginning on May 14, *Tomorrow's World* takes a look at the science of cricket. Professor Brian Wildens, a New Zealander and lifelong fan of the game, has decided to build a machine that examines the mechanics of bowling. His research reveals the effects that the weather can have on the delivery of the ball. Also, Peter Snow and Mike Gatting, the former England captain, test the controversial new white balls to see if they work in the same way as the traditional red ones.

Ian Hughes



Jamie Oliver presents no-nonsense cooking in *The Naked Chef* (BBC2, 8pm)

and offer his utterly cool Central London apartment for the occasion. True to his intelligent and no-nonsense form, he offers an Italian bread, focaccia, with rosemary, olives and garlic, followed by baked (farmed) salmon with green beans, tomatoes, anchovies, olives and a basil aioli, and a lemon and lime cream tart. He and his unseen female interlocutor make it all seem eminently straightforward to prepare and the women impeccably well turned out, lap it up.

Leviathan

BBC2, 7.30pm

Michael Portillo and Ken Livingstone share a platform tonight in the cause of rehabilitating, or at least adjusting, the image of Oliver Cromwell, leader of the English republic and perhaps no less of a tyrant than the King, Charles I, for whose execution he was responsible. Their contributions were not available for preview, but Dennis Waterman's "potted history" (the BBC's pun) of snooker was. Tying in with this week's coverage of the World Championships, it does a reasonable job of summarising the history of the game.

Louise Godfrey

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مكتبة من الأصل

A whole new meaning to fly-on-the-wall

I am heartwarming to see that a contrite BBC — after its insubordination in allowing John Simpson to file reports from Belgrade which Downing Street found offensive — is trying to make amends by helping Gordon Brown to stamp down resurgent house price inflation by the novel means of letting us glimpse Haringey council's environmental health officers at work.

After watching BBC1's new series *A Life Of Grime*, the only people who'll be rushing to make offers on property in this part of North London will be those who are deeply fascinated by exotic wildlife, but who can't be bothered to actually visit London Zoo.

All animal life is here, most of it in the kitchen and under the bath mat. *A Life Of Grime* is the sort of programme that makes you wonder why naturalists struggle in the malnatorial heat of South American rainforests when they could

uncover as many species of insect life in Tottenham and Hornsey.

It comes as no surprise to discover that this series is made by BBC Bristol: the cockroaches crawling over the tandoori in Tottenham were filmed as lovingly as if this were a David Attenborough natural history documentary. A tray of raw onions was covered in a cloth harbouring so many bacteria that it would qualify for its own scientific research grant. A pile of poppadoms was speckled with mouse droppings, not black mustard seeds as you hoped. It can't have been purely down to luck that this series is being broadcast after most people will have eaten.

When a health officer emerges from a small council flat housing five dogs and 15 cats, she reports that: "There are dog faeces in the living room. The cats are going bald. There's a flea problem," while her colleague swabs her hands and legs with sufficient anti-

septics to prepare her for surgery. Strangely, the case that should have been the most disquieting was the most heartening. Edmund Trebus, an 81-year-old Polish war veteran who has been living in Crouch End for the past 25 years, has filled all ten square feet of his five-bedroom house and its garden with rubbish. Even the loo is full of it, which means that while some dogs in Haringey are allowed the luxury of pooping indoors, Mr Trebus finds a space in his garden.

Mr Trebus won't let Haringey's health officers clear the garbage. What makes all this encouraging is that if you can survive in such insanitary surroundings to the age of 81, then we needn't waste our money on all those antibacterial sprays they keep advertising on TV.

It used to be journalists who roamed the world giving everyone

the impression that the most important aspect of any story was the fact that they had come to report it. Today TV personalities have taken over this conceit. "Celebrities" now descend on an institution — a leading opera house, a football team, etc — and expect to be allowed not just to find out how it is done, but actually to be allowed to do it, even if this jeopardises the reputation for efficiency/success/

artistic merit that the institution has taken years to polish.

A betting man would wager that the manager of the Taj hotel in Bombay had agreed only under sufferance to the request from BBC's Holiday to let David Gower and Rory McGrath serve as butlers to the Taj's VIP guests. This was a man who would sooner cut his own liver than let mice make his doo-doo on his popadoms. So while Gower and McGrath found it amusing that room-service orders were cooked up, each step upping their new boss like a stab wound. To them it was a joke for a TV show: to him it was his life.

About halfway through their trial it must have occurred to the two Brits that their behaviour was patronising or maybe their professionalism got the better of them. But just as they had stopped acting like goons for the camera, Gower was recognised by some of Bombay's beautiful people —

including former cricketers — who were attending a ritzy publishing party in one of the Taj's suites. They turned Gower into a non-burdening fellow guest. So, once again, the boss wasn't pleased (but now nor was McGrath). Still, it did what your appetite for a stay at the Taj — which is presumably why the hotel agreed to the prank in the first place.

The Decision (Channel 4) opened up the social worker's casework on Hayley, a 15-year-old who goes ahead with having a baby against her separated parents' wishes — neither of whom wants anything to do with her. Hayley is no longer with the baby's father, hasn't any money, has no home and is relying on the social services to make her more comfortable. They give her a flat in Newcastle. This dispiriting film — the first of Oliver Morse's three-part series shadowing

children and their social workers — doesn't seek to nudge you into wondering why taxpayers should foot the bill for Hayley. But then nor does it strain to hedge you into acknowledging that society would be in an even bigger mess if we did not help the Hayleys.

In Melinda Messenger's newest series on Channel 5, a game show called *Can We Still Be Friends?*, former couples get to win prizes by dishing dirt on former partners and rehashing the animosities that drove them apart. Is it that nobody else apart from Melinda Messenger wants to present Channel 5 shows, or does Channel 5 just love Melinda so much that it gives her first dibs on every new show they commission? If it's the latter, why doesn't Channel 5 just go the whole hog and change its logo to a picture of Melinda's swollen cleavage, accompanied by a new station catchphrase: "Our cups runneth over".

REVIEW

Joe Joseph



BBC1
6.00am Business Breakfast (24537)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (7) (46686)
9.00 Kirby (7) (973826)
9.45 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (7) (88957)
10.15 The Vanessa Show (7) (469150)
11.00 News; Weather (7) (5973570)
11.05 City Hospital (7) (889599)
11.55 News; Weather (7) (443402)
12.00 Going for a Song (7278529)
12.25pm Just a Minute (7) (560606)
12.55 The Weather Show (7) (1139924)
1.00 One O'Clock News (7) (49773)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (7) (59737976)
1.40 Neighbours Sarah gets an embarrassing surprise (7) (16938773)
2.05 Through the Keyhole (7) (51331599)
2.30 Snooker: World Championship Further coverage of day five. Presented by Dougie Donnelly (7) (516570)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (8272570)
3.45 Starfish Ponies (4605334) 3.55 Hubub (537559) 4.10 Shirley Holmes (7038792) 4.35 The Demon Headmaster (7277315) 5.00 Newsworld (5209111)
5.10 Blue Peter (2060711)
5.35 Neighbours (7) (242112)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (7) (792)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (604)



A look at how a cricket ball reacts under different conditions (7pm)

7.00 **CHOICE** Tomorrow's World Peter Snow takes a look at the science of bowling in cricket (7) (9841)
7.30 EastEnders The police play the video tape (7) (228)
8.00 Changing Rooms The interior design challenge visits Eltham (7) (5168)
8.30 Battersea Dogs' Home (7) (52434)
8.50 The National Lottery: Greatest Hits Toyah provides the live music as Angela Griffin presents the draw (7) (426333)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (7) (593976)
9.34 National Lottery Update (237957)
9.35 Men Behaving Badly Questions are raised over Tony's sexuality, jeopardising Gary's hopes of indulging in a spot of male bonding (7) (275082)
10.00 They Think It's All Over (7) (3234)
10.30 Harry Enfield's Television Programme Comedy (7) (7) (494605)
11.05 Film 99 with Jonathan Ross Includes reviews of *Brann* and *Message in a Bottle* (7) (1634899)
11.35 To Protect and Serve (1992) Premieres An honest cop witnesses a vicious case of police brutality ending in death, and soon fears for his own life. Thriller, starring C. Thomas Howell. Directed by Eric Westen (7) (211792)
12.55pm Weather (1059613)
1.00 BBC News 24 (7931667)

9.30-9.54 Party Election Broadcast (7) (237957) 12.55pm-1.00 News (1059613)

BBC2
7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Noddy in Toyland (48044) 7.30 Top Cat (8771841) 7.55 French Exchange (2036334) 9.19 Rewind (9005247) 8.20 Daedaly and Matley (4181957) 8.45 Puffles Dot Shorts (1671063) 8.50 Pingoo (1863044) 8.55 Small Stories (1682315)
9.00 Geography Programme Shorts (4762353) 9.10 Numberline (7579889)
9.25 Folk Dance (9030995) 9.45 Words and Pictures (7112315) 10.00 Teletubbies (33624) 10.30 Numberline (376860) 10.45 Cat's Eyes (7638315)
11.00 Number Adventures (1667150)
11.20 Geography Programme (6113421)
11.40 Science in Action (2018889) 12.00 Shakespeare: The Animated Tales (392247) 12.30pm Working Lunch (57131) 1.00 Bruno (88962333)

1.10 Snooker: World Championship

Dougie Donnelly presents the morning's action (9104518)

2.30 Beautiful Things (5081510)

2.45 News; Weather (7) (8054957)

3.45 Westminster (7) (7400678)

3.55 News; Weather (7) (7842773)

4.00 Snooker: World Championship David Vine presents further coverage from Sheffield's Crucible Theatre (6518)

6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation Sci-fi adventure (7) (393315)

6.45 Snooker: World Championship Ronnie O'Sullivan opens his campaign against Leo Fernandez (794226)

7.00 Coronation Street Roy and Hayley's big day arrives (7) (4537)

7.30 Dennis Waterman introduces a history of snooker (7.30pm)

7.30 **CHOICE** Levithian Dennis Waterman looks back at how the game of snooker has developed (7) (570)

9.00 **CHOICE** The Naked Chef Jamie Oliver cooks up a meal for his sister's hen night (7) (6131)

9.30 Front Anne McEvitt's idea for a futuristic kitchen (7) (5266)

9.45 Red Dwarf Rikky takes revenge for Lister's dodgy advice (7) (4632)

9.50 Snooker: World Championship David Vine follows the progress of Ronnie O'Sullivan as his first-round match continues (1766686)

10.33 Video Nation Shorts (7) (557266)

10.35 Newsnight (7) (345499)

11.25 The Pull of the City Increased optimism in London. Last in series (3/3) (568082)

11.55 Weather (291518)

12.00 Deepacheet (78445)

12.30pm BBC Learning Zone: Open University, Sickle Cell — A Lethal Advantage 1.00 The KT Event 1.30 The Nature of Impacts and their Impacts on Nature 2.00 Schools: Primary PSHE — Who, Me? 4.00 Languages: The Business Language Special 5.00 Business and Training: So You Want to Work in Social Care? 5.30 20 Steps to Better Management — Motivating People 5.45 Open University: Nerves 6.10 Insect Hormones: The Control of Moulting 6.35 Regulation and Control

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12.55pm Weather (1059613)

1.00 BBC News 24 (7931667)

9.30-9.54 Party Election Broadcast (7) (237957) 12.55pm-1.00 News (1059613)

HTV
5.30am ITV Morning News (37599)
6.00 GMTV (2671976)
9.25 Trisha (7) (3324247)
10.30 This Morning (7) (49931315)
12.15pm HTV News and Weather (7) (7894569)
12.30 ITV Lunctime News; Weather (7) (2418363)
12.55 Shortland Street Rachael finds a new flatmate (1577131)
1.30 Lie Detector (16894957)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (7) (5842315)
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (7) (2831570)
3.10 ITV News Headlines (7) (5548377)
3.20 CITV: Melsy (5638150) 3.25 The Story Store (5638386) 3.40 Jumanji (2262605) 4.05 Hey Arnold! (7836112) 4.35 Wildtrack (7295711)
5.00 Catchphrase (7) (4773)
5.30 WEST: Live and Local Richard Wyatt and Polly Lloyd report from a different location in the region each week (247)
5.30 WALES: Get Gunning! New series, Horticultural magazine (7) (247)
5.58 HTV Weather (737570)
6.00 HTV News (7) (860)
6.25 WALES: Party Election Broadcast By the Natural Law Party of Wales (461686)
6.29 Crimestoppers (461686)
6.30 HTV Evening News; Weather (7) (112)
7.00 Coronation Street Roy and Hayley's big day arrives (7) (4537)

7.30 Dennis Waterman introduces a history of snooker (7.30pm)

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10.33 Video Nation Shorts (7) (557266)

10.35 Newsnight (7) (345499)

11.25 The Big Match Champions League semi-final second-leg match at the Stadio delle Alpi in Turin. Including the National Lottery result. Subsequent programmes may run late (7) (97712)

10.00 Their Worst Nightmares: Sports Commentaries Magic moments from the master of the microphone (7) (2689)

11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (7) (91902)

11.20 HTV News and Weather (7) (804711)

11.30 The Big Match Champions League semi-final highlights (76803)

12.35 Filmfare My Lovely (1975) Robert Mitchum, as Raymond Chandler's half-witted gurney Philo Walder, is hunting for an ex-convict's missing sweetheart. Thriller, with Charlotte Rampling. Directed by Dick Richards (121377)

2.20 The Big Match Bayern Munich v Dynamo Kiev (521260)

4.05 The Making of What Dreams May Come Behind the scenes of Robin Williams' new film (68798209)

4.35 ITV Nightsgems Behind the scenes of TV programmes (42039716)

5.00 Coronation Street (7) (71174)

7.00 **CHOICE** Tomorrow's World Peter Snow takes a look at the science of bowling in cricket (7) (9841)

7.30 EastEnders The police play the video tape (7) (228)

LONDON MARATHON

The full list of finishers continues on pages 48 and 49

SPORT

WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 1999

TENNIS

Chips are down for Henman in Monte Carlo



United manager ponders which cards to play as Giggs is forced to sit out training

Ferguson may have to discard ace in the pack

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT IN TURIN

EVEN after the plane had come to a standstill and the rest of the passengers had disembarked, Ryan Giggs, Gary Neville, Nicky Butt and Teddy Sheringham stayed on the empty aircraft determined to finish their game of cards.

This is not a trip for abandoning any kind of contest halfway through. This, they and their team-mates know, is the time when they have to go for broke.

If Manchester United fail against Juventus in the great concrete bowl of the Stadio delle Alpi tonight, recriminations and regrets will cloud the remainder of their season and pursue them into the next millennium, no matter what domestic honours they manage to prise away from Arsenal.

This is what they have been building towards for as long as most of them can remember, the essence of the obsession nurtured since Alex Ferguson brought it within their compass to emulate Sir Man Busby and his team by winning the European Cup.

It is so close now that they can almost reach out and grasp it, but with its proximity comes the dread of what defeat would mean and the desperation to achieve what few teams have done by beating the Italian champions in front of their own supporters.

To get this close and fail, as they did against Borussia

Dortmund in the last days of Eric Cantona, to have to start the quest all over again next season, when Peter Schmeichel will have gone, is almost unthinkable.

They know that Juventus appear to have timed their season to perfection after six months of unfamiliar mediocrity and that Edgar Davids and Zinedine Zidane are two of the most formidable opponents that they will come across.

Ferguson, who spoke about the conundrum of coping with the "Zidane thing", also knows, after their shaky 1-1 draw in the first leg of the semi-finals a fortnight ago, that they must score here if they are to progress to the final in the Nou Camp on May 26.

Last night, though, it seemed increasingly likely that United would have to try to reach their target without Giggs. The inspirational wingerman sat forlornly on a green box in the empty shell of the stadium during United's evening training session, his ankle heavily strapped.

His loss would be a particularly savage blow after his tour de force against Arsenal propellered Manchester United into the FA Cup Final last week. He would have gone into the game tonight feeling as though he could take on the world. Now, it seems that his a

skilful provider he can still be.

Ferguson has dropped Cole

from United's past two league games. Yorke, too, has been used sparingly. Some of his critics have suggested that he has grown complacent after a gilded start to his United career, which has yielded 26 goals this season. In his absence, Teddy Sheringham has reminded Ferguson what a skilful provider he can still be.

Ferguson's treatment of Yorke and Cole will have remedied any motivational deficiencies that may have crept into their games. Both were bristling with indignation and de-

termination when they arrived in Italy yesterday. "I was disappointed with my own performance in the first leg," Yorke said. "It was my worst performance since I arrived at

United. It was just one of those days. Everything had been going so well and it was such a shame that on one of the biggest occasions, I didn't perform. Hopefully, I will be given another chance and I will put that right. I don't think I have anything to prove but I do have to help to get a result."

Cole needs little motivation, apart from the gnawing memories of the chances that he and Cantona missed against Dortmund at Old Trafford. His profligacy that night seemed to have closed the debate about his ability to take opportunities at this rarefied level, but his performances this season in particular, have caused many to change their minds.

"I took a lot of the blame after that match," Cole said. "but I am used to it. I have improved as a player since then. I judge myself more than anyone else judges me. I have got better and will continue getting better but I am too old to worry about what people say about me these days. I laugh at stuff like that off now.

"It has been hard to play in

the last couple of games. I don't like it when people keep going on about how me and Dwight haven't scored for a few games. It shouldn't make any difference to anybody. People should realise we are still contributing."

Ferguson, who recalled that Urs Meier, the Swiss who is the referee tonight, ruled out two apparently legitimate United goals in the second leg of the match against Dortmund, remained optimistic.

"We will need a combination of many things," he said. "Luck comes into it, but the one dominant thing is that we are going to have to perform magnificently to win. It would be a marvellous achievement.

"We have progressed. I never quite thought we could win it two years ago, but we have learnt well. We are capable of recovering in important matches. That's a good sign."



Giggs, scorer of two of United's most important goals of the season but now nursing a heavily strapped left ankle, watches his team-mates train in the Stadio delle Alpi yesterday

JUVENTUS (probable: 4-4-1-1)									
A Birindelli	C Ferrara	M Iullano	G Pessotto	J					
A Conte	D Deschamps	E Davids	A Di Livio	Zidane					
				Inzaghi					
					P Schmeichel				
					G Neville	R Johnsen	J Stam	D Irwin	
					D Beckham	R Keane	N Butt	J Blomqvist	
					D Yorke	A Cole			

MANCHESTER UNITED (probable: 4-4-2-2-2)

P Schmeichel	G Neville	R Johnsen	J Stam	D Irwin					
G Neville	R Johnsen	J Stam	D Irwin						
D Beckham	R Keane	N Butt	J Blomqvist						
D Yorke	A Cole								

Kick off: 7.45
TV: ITV - The Big Match Live (7.30pm)
RADIO: Radio 5 Live: John Inverdale's Football Night (7.30)
Referee: U Meier (Switzerland)
WEBSITES: www.manutd.com
www.juventus.it

Proud Juventus can take heart from their glorious record

FROM MATT DICKINSON IN TURIN

UNDER Alex Ferguson, Manchester United's repeated attempts to reach the final of the European Cup have seemed like epic assaults on the highest mountain. Every year the last few steps have proved insurmountable. Brave men — Hughes and Ince — as well as brilliant footballers — Cantona and Kanchelskis — have failed to reach the summit.

Such a sequence of disappointments makes the achievements of Juventus all the more remarkable because, tonight, in the Stadio delle Alpi, the fabled club can reach its fourth European Cup final in succession.

reaching the final again has too often appeared a heavy burden but there was no sense yesterday that Juventus were being downed by the baggage of history. "The past record is not a worry because it is the first time for me," Carles Ancelotti, the coach, said. The players appear to share his equanimity. "The atmosphere is tranquil and serene," Antonio Conte, the captain, said and there was no evidence to the contrary among a squad of hardened and hungry professionals.

United's 31-year wait to

determined to make the most of it now that they have survived this far. "It is easier for us to qualify for the Champions League next season by winning it rather than finishing fourth in Serie A," Ancelotti said, and players such as Deschamps and Davids know exactly what it takes.

United supporters looking

for reasons to be optimistic should probably stop reading now. In almost 150 European matches in Turin, Juventus have lost only seven times — Arsenal inflicted one of those rare defeats in 1980 — and they have scored in front of their own supporters in every European match in the past seven years. United, it must be noted, have never won an Italian soil.

Such records always come

to an end, of course, but this Juventus side will prove tenacious defenders of such a formidable reputation. "We have a small edge at 1-1," Ancelotti said, "but that must only increase our determination. If we think it makes easier for us then the advantage will switch to them. We are in good shape for the game. The players, particularly Zidane, are fitter than at Old Trafford so I believe we can play for the entire 90 minutes as we did in the first half there."

Paolo Montero, the impressive Uruguayan defender, is the only injury concern for Juventus, who expect a fast and furious game. Ancelotti is expected to field a side similar to that which could easily have been 3-0 up after half an hour in Manchester. Their early domination was largely down to the prompting of Zidane, who, as at Old Trafford, is expected to weave his passing webs behind a lone striker in Inzaghi.

United will have to demonstrate that they have learnt from their tactical mistakes by instructing one of the back four, rather than Keane, to pick up Zidane.

The Frenchman is understood to have been less than thrilled at the comments of Gianni Agnelli, the club's owner, this week which suggested that he is hemmed in by his wife, but unless Mrs Zidane insists that her husband stays at home to do the dishes or vacuum the carpet, his presence alone will ensure that Juventus start the match as favourites. The Italians are bracing themselves for a tight, frenetic match and have practised penalties in case it finishes 1-1. "It will be close," Ancelotti admitted, but he did so with an air of calm.

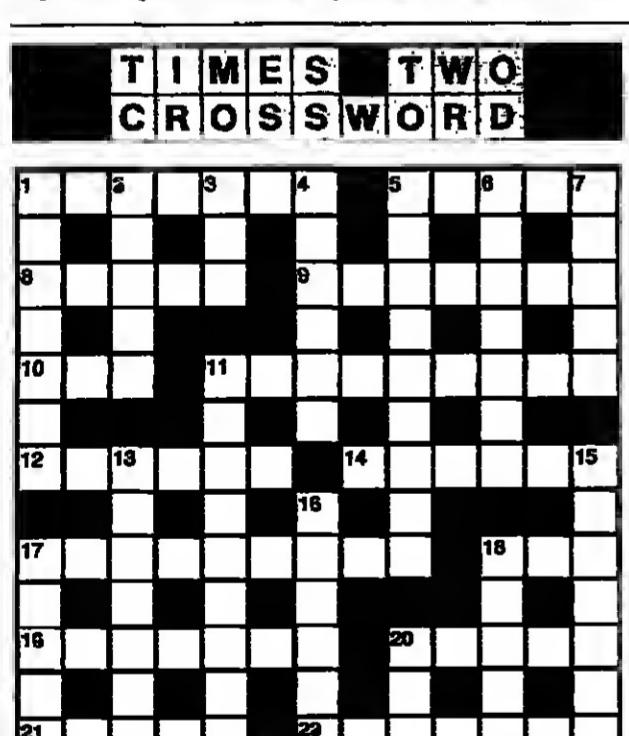
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No 1697

CROSS
1 Serrated-beaked bird, the merganser (7)
5 Tiny particle, patch of colour (5)
8 Excessive (5)
9 Groves of scholarly retreat (7)
10 Divinity (3)
11 Unruth (9)
12 Do it again! (6)
14 Gripping tool (6)
17 One gives something (9)
18 Watch-chain; palm (off) (3)
19 A road surfacing (7)
20 Florida resort city (5)
21 Rhythm of poetry; unit of distance (5)
22 Outermost; very unusual (7)

SOLUTION TO NO 1696
ACROSS: 5 Horticulture 8 Frolic 9 Trifly 10 Urdu 12 Drapery 14 Charter 15 Bang 17 Mammal 18 Outlaw 20 Second nature
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UNITED'S EUROPEAN CUP SEMI-FINAL RECORD

1985-86: Partizan Belgrade 0-2 (away). 1-0 (home), agg 1-2.
After a club record 10-0 victory over Anderlecht in the preliminary round, United met their match in Real Madrid. Kopas, Mateos et al ensured that the second leg of the semi-final at Old Trafford — the first ever match at the ground under newly installed floodlights — would be an anticlimax.

1986-87: AC Milan 2-1 (home), 0-4 (away), agg 3-5.
On February 6, 1988, the Munich air disaster claimed the lives of eight United players. It destroyed United's strongest line-up and temporarily halted Sir Matt Busby's dream of a European Cup. Only three regular first-team players were in the team when, three months later, they secured an emotional victory over AC Milan at Old Trafford in the first leg of the semi-final. However, the likes of Schaffino and Maldini secured Milan's aggregate success.

1987-88: Real Madrid 1-3 (away). 0-2 (home), agg 1-2.
George Best, outstanding against Benfica in the semi-final, was crucially injured for the second leg at Old Trafford. An own goal by Sosic, the visitors' goalkeeper, gave United hope but Best's separation injury was unable to pull back the two-goal deficit from the first leg in Belgrade.

1988-89: Real Madrid 3-3 (away), agg 4-3.
Real's talents were by now on the decline but they had retained their glamour and the spellbinding Inzaghi captivated 163,000 spectators over the two legs. At half-time in the second leg, United were trailing 3-1 but, despite a goalless second half, they managed two, the second from Bill Foulkes, an unlikely goal-scoring hero in one of his 679 appearances for the club.

1989-90: Real Madrid 0-2 (away). 1-1 (home), agg 1-2.
Eric Cantona had proved the catalyst for so many United victories since his arrival from Leeds United but the European Cup had eluded him and his team-mates. The Frenchman was instrumental in bringing about the challenge of FC Porto in the quarter-finals but produced two of his least effective performances in the games against Borussia Dortmund, the eventual winners.

1990-91: AC Milan 0-2 (away). 1-1 (home), agg 1-2.
Stephen Wood

مكتبة من الأصل